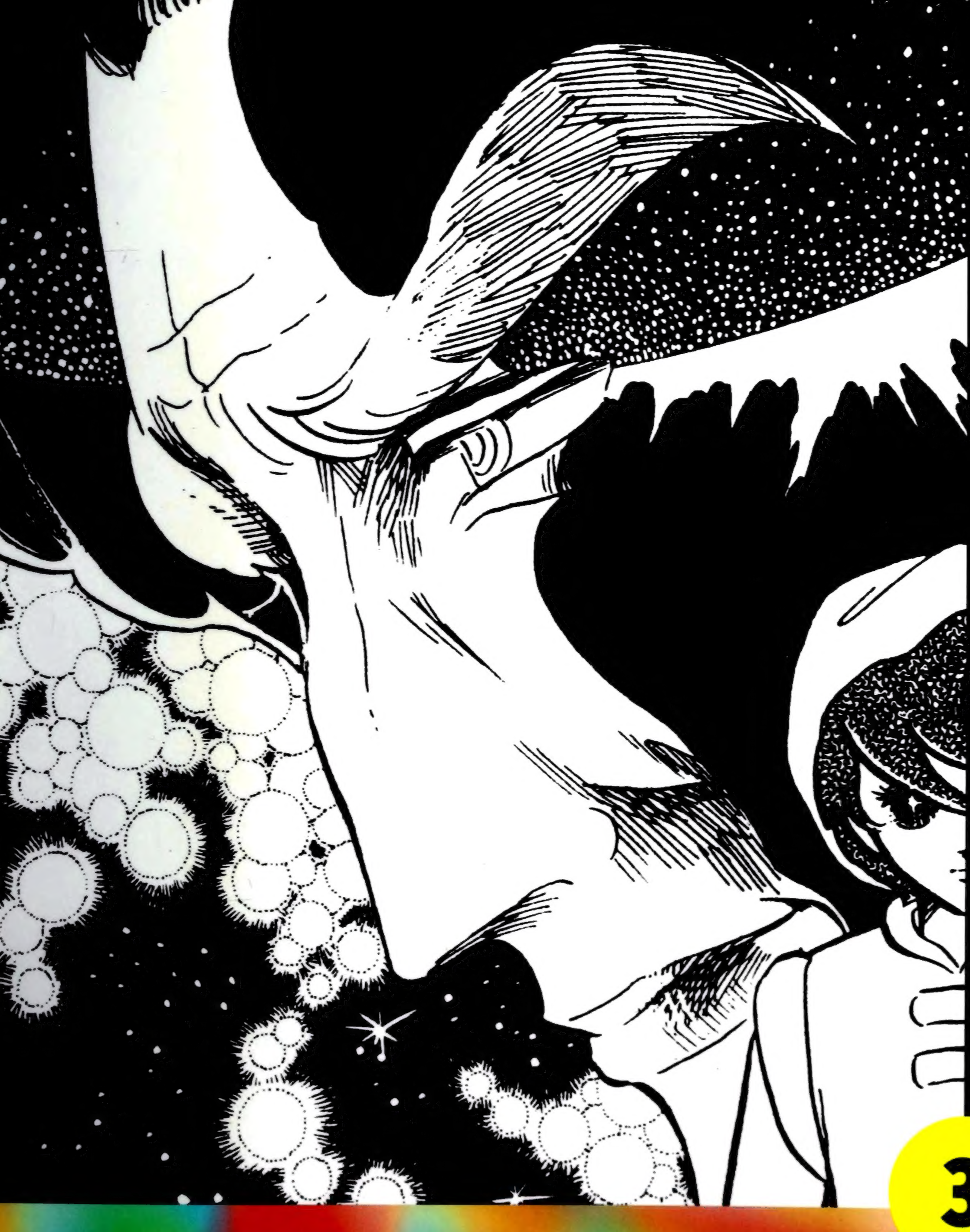

KIKO

STORY BY RYU MITSUSE

TAKEMIYA

3

ANDROMEDA STORIES

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ANDROMEDA STORIES

Volume 3

KEIKO TAKEMIYA

story by Ryu Mitsuse

VERTICAL.

Translation—Magnolia Steele
Production—Hiroko Mizuno

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ANDROMEDA STORIES

(CONTINUED)

GET THEM.

KING... CAPTURE THOSE TWO.

JIMSA AGLIMA SOLT-LEID,

WE MUST HAVE A LONG TALK.

...MY LORD!

BIP BIP BIP

ARC! DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET US OUT OF HERE!

THE DOOR'S SHUT. CAN'T FIND THE EXIT.

IF WE CLIMB INSIDE, THE MACHINE CAN'T ATTACK— IT'D BE ATTACKING ITSELF!

THERE HAS TO BE AN ACCESS PORT FOR MACHINE REPAIR— WE'LL USE THAT!

WE AREN'T LOOKING FOR AN "EXIT."

YEAH! GET IN THERE!

...MOM

THE KING...

THE KING...

US...

GOOD, BETTER SHE STAYS QUIET.

COMMEND BETH ON HER SHARP SENSES. SHE'S QUICK!

WE'RE OUT!

DO SOMETHING OR WE'LL FALL!

FOOL!

THE ENEMY HAS SHARP SENSES TOO...

PULLING BACK.

THE FLOOR'S...

ARC 2!

ARC, WHAT ARE YOU DOING DAWDLE ? HERE AND THEY'LL CATCH UP.

ガガガガガガガガ

SO LONG AS THE *ENEMY* HAS RADAR, WE CAN'T OUTRUN THEM.

YOUR TURN, BETH. TIME TO TURN INTO A SCRAP METAL WORKER.

WHAT ?!

THE PARTS AREN'T BROKEN, THEY JUST REQUIRE ASSEMBLY.

BETH IS GOING TO BUILD A KITE FROM THIS SCRAP METAL TO FLY US THERE.

THE NEAREST PLACES THE *ENEMY* HAS YET TO INFILTRATE ARE THE WESTERN CRAGS OF THE KILEN MOUNTAINS.

WHAT ?

ARC... I'M SORRY FOR BLOWING UP AT YOU EARLIER.

IT'S COLD, BUT IT WORKS WELL. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OUTRUN THEM AT THIS SPEED.

...

BIP

PERHAPS.

BUT MACHINES DON'T EQUATE "COMFORT" WITH "HAPPINESS."

I'M SURE THE *ENEMY*— THAT HUGE GOD ASTRA— MADE A LOT OF SENSE TO YOU.

WOULD THAT BE A PLACE YOU'D WANT TO LIVE?

WHAT?

DOING ITS BEST TO MAKE HUMANS HAPPY.

THAT SO-CALLED GOD IS ONLY FOLLOWING SOMEBODY'S ORDERS,

WHAT WE NEED ARE ORDERS AND A MISSION, THAT'S ALL.

THE KILEN MOUNTAINS. WE SHOULD BE SAFE NOW.

WHY SO ANGRY? MASTER ALWAYS GETS UPSET OVER THE STRANGEST THINGS.

DID THAT LIFE REALLY APPEAL TO MOTHER MORE THAN LIFE IN THE BADLANDS?

THE LADY IS EXHAUSTED. WE SHOULD CONSIDER RESTING.

MASTER, WHY WHY WALK? WHY HIDE OUR EFFICIENT VEHICLE AMONGST THE ROCKS ?

IT'S DANGEROUS JUST BRINGING YOU AND BETH ALONG.

THEY MAY BE BANDITS WHO HATE THE *ENEMY* AND FLED FROM THE MACHINES.

THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND. I CAN TELL.

THE KITE WILL COME IF WE CALL IT. JUST BE QUIET AND WALK.

MY CLAIRVOYANCE DULLS WHEN I'M HUNGRY.

THERE'S AN OASIS AHEAD. WE'LL CAMP THERE FOR THE NIGHT.

BUT HUMANS REQUIRE SLEEP AND FOOD.

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

LOOKS LIKE THIS WAS ONCE A VILLAGE ...

THE WATER IS CLEAN AND POTABLE.

LET'S REST HERE TONIGHT.

THE SUN HAS SET.

WHY WOULD ALL THE VILLAGERS ABANDON AN OASIS LIKE THIS?

Z

THEY'RE EATING THAT TREE'S FRUITS.

SO THAT TREE HAS FRUIT...

A HERD OF SMALL DRAGONS.

THEY LOOK HARMLESS...

DON'T TRY FOOD YOU'VE NEVER SEEN!

NO!

EEEK!!

AS THEY INCREASE, THE PEOPLE DE-CREASE.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THESE TREES GROWING NEAR OASES ...

THE FRUIT BLEW UP INSIDE IT.

THE DRAG-ON!

HELP ME,
GOD OF
HEAVEN AND EARTH,
IF I DESERVE
TO LIVE!

RUN!

!!!

はらり

THEY LOOK FINE.

THEY'RE ACTUALLY VICIOUS MACHINE CELLS MADE TO LOOK LIKE PLANTS.

EVEN A HUMAN BODY WOULD BE EASY FOR THE ENEMY TO SYNTHESIZE.

SOME-THING INSIDE THE BODY TRIGGERS IT TO BLOW UP.

I CAME TO GET WATER. I'M A SURVIVOR OF THE VILLAGE. THE OTHERS ARE OVER THERE!

HEY, YOU! WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

WHO'S THERE?

THE 30 OR SO OF US LEFT HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WANDER.

TONIGHT WE DRINK TO OUR DEPARTURE IN THE MORNING.

YES, 90% OF OUR GROUP DIED BEFORE WE REALIZED THOSE FRUITS WERE THE CAUSE.

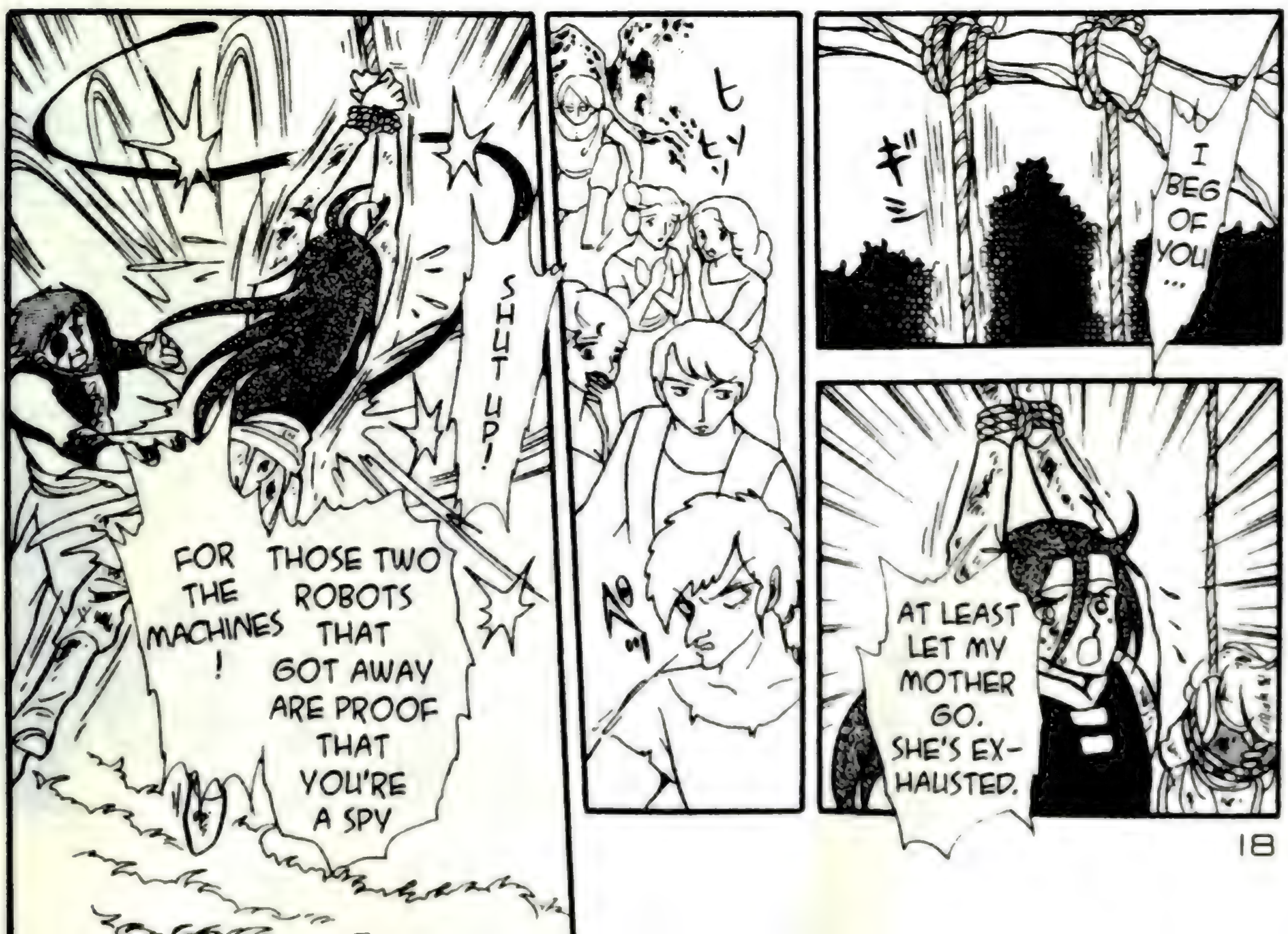
SLEEPY ...

I FEEL MY STRENGTH SLIPPING AWAY.

BUT ENOUGH OF THIS GLOOMY TALK.

DRINK UP! ENJOY THE DANCING GIRLS.

JIMS ...
POISON.


SHUT UP!
FOR THE MACHINES!
THOSE TWO ROBOTS THAT GOT AWAY ARE PROOF THAT YOU'RE A SPY
I BEG OF YOU ...
AT LEAST LET MY MOTHER GO. SHE'S EXHAUSTED.

ENOUGH! YOU'LL MAKE FOR A GOOD OFFERING TO THE SUN GOD.

NO

THEY'RE ...

AGH

WAIT !

I KNOW THAT MAN.

ﾅｰ…ｼﾝ

THAT GUY…

HAS THE SAME FACE AS ME.

EVER SINCE THAT MACHINE BLEW OFF PART OF MY LEG …

HEY, KEEP IT DOWN, WILL YA? I DON'T FEEL SO HOT.

MIR-ROR…

MIR-ROR!

YOU'LL… RULE THE WORLD… AS KING.

YOU'RE A SPECIAL KID— YOUR TIME WILL COME.

BUT YOU, AFFLE, YOU MUST… LIVE YOUR DESTINY.

HAS BEEN ROTTEN. AND THE BOSS DUMPED ME, MY LUCK

MOM…

ぱさ

YES... YOU KNOW ME BY THIS FACE.

IT SEEMS YOU'VE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL, PRINCE JIMSA.

YOU...

...

BUT YOU HAVEN'T AGED A BIT.

YOU HELPED US ESCAPE ARANCHAN!

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN... YOU'RE IL, RIGHT?

FOR-GET ALL ...

REST, MY PRINCE.

PERHAPS IT WAS DESTINY THAT THE TWINS WOULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER.

I KNEW WE'D MEET AGAIN, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HERE.

JIMSA'S TWIN BROTHER, WHO HAS THE RED DRAGON BIRTHMARK IN HIS HAND.

YES... BUT IT'S THE OTHER PRINCE.

ELDER...

COULD THE PRINCE REALLY BE HERE?

...

WHAT IS IT?

SOMEONE'S BEING ATTACKED... BY THE FEROCIOUS CROWN DRAGON!

I'M UN-EASY.

WHERE COULD THOSE ROBOTS HAVE RUN TO?

...

IN THE SOUTHERN VALLEY, WHERE THE DESERT BEGINS!

WHERE?

THAT VOICE THAT JUST CALLED ME...?

JIMSA!

WHY YOU? DON'T GO, IT'S DANGEROUS!

I'LL SEE YOU THERE.

IT'S NOT AS IF I WERE TRYING TO SEE THAT SCENE.

WHY DID THAT VISION BURST INTO MY MIND?

WHO WAS THAT?

WHY?!

DAMN!
I CAN SEE IT
SO CLEARLY!

I'M TOO
FAR.
I WON'T
GET THERE
IN TIME!

IN
ONE
GO,

CHANNEL
YOUR ENERGY
TO THE TIP
OF YOUR
SWORD AND...

CHOP
IT UP!

RIP IT
APART!

SLASH

KILL IT!

IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL BE TORN TO PIECES!

I... I CAN'T GET UP...

FIERCE PAIN...

TEAR IT APART!

GRR...

ㅜㅠ

UGH...

WHAT HAP-PENED?

YOU WERE LYING ON THE ROAD LIKE A LOG.

ㅜㅠ

I DUNNO ...

I WHEN THAT KID GOT HURT, HIS PAIN BOLTED THROUGH MY BODY.

HE'S OKAY. I'VE TREATED HIM.

BUT I WAS SURPRISED— HE HAS SO MUCH POWER HIDDEN INSIDE.

A FACE LIKE A GIRL'S.

... BUT THIS FACE

THIS IS THIS CHILD'S TRUE FACE, PRINCE JIMSA.

IT WAS DIRTIER ...

NO... HIS FACE WASN'T LIKE THIS.

IT'S PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME HE FELT IT HIMSELF. HE PASSED OUT FROM THE SHOCK.

DO YOU THINK SO, PRINCE?

LOOKS ... LIKE MINE.

ABANDONED THE DAY IT WAS BORN, ADOPTED BY A PROSTITUTE AND TAKEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

THAT IS YOUR TWIN,

UH ...

AND SHE'S A GIRL... YOUR SISTER.

THOUGH SHE HIDES THAT FACT.

NO! MOM WOULD NEVER ...

THE QUEEN DOESN'T EVEN KNOW... BUT YOU TWO MET BECAUSE OF THE FORCE DRAWING YOU TOGETHER.

YOUR MEETING PROBLY CAUSED THAT EXPLOSION OF ENERGY.

I'D HEARD THAT TWINS BORN ON THIS PLANET FEEL A STRANGE PULL TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TWO TO MEET.

A

UHH ...

ENOUGH!

IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW, LEAVE HER BE.

HERE, DRINK THIS HERBAL ANAL-EPTIC.

YOU CAN'T BREAK NEWS LIKE THAT TO SOMEONE IN SHOCK.

EVEN I AM CONFUSED ...

VERY WELL. I'D FORGOTTEN THAT'S HOW HUMANS ARE.

W...

WHAT?

ACCEPT AFFLE AS YOUR KING? REALLY?

THAT'S WHY

WE TRAVELED THIS FAR, MADAM.

MY DREAM HAS COME TRUE!

TAKE HIM. MAKE HIM A GREAT KING!

WHAT DO YOU SAY? WON'T YOU GIVE US YOUR PRINCE SO WE MAY DEFEAT THE ENEMY?

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO TAKE THE THRONE.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, TOO.

NO!!

STAY AWAY!

TOUCH ME AND I'LL KILL YOU BOTH ...

HOW LONG I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY!

PRINCE JIMSA, SHE'S WARY OF YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A YOUNG MAN.

...

ㅜ"

STAY STILL. YOUR WOUND WILL OPEN!

ALL WE DID WAS REMOVE YOUR DISGUISE AND TEND YOUR WOUND.

STOP THAT, YOU FOOL!

DON'T RUN!

J IMSA!

THAT VOICE ...

IT TOLD ME TO RIP THE DRAGON APART.

THE WOUND ...

STOP!

THIS IS NO JOKE... I FEEL HALF OF HER PAIN.

WE DON'T LOOK ALIKE FOR NOTH-ING.

I HEEDED THAT VOICE AND WAS ABLE TO DO IT!

STOP!

IT'S NOT HALF, PRINCE JIMSA.

YOU FEEL ALL HER PAIN.

IF YOU SAY SO...

NO!

IT HURTS, RIGHT?

PRINCE!

I HOPE YOU DON'T BECOME A DANGER.

THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER ARE A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

LET ME DOWN! THE SON OF A BANDIT CHIEF ISN'T CARRIED AROUND!

THEY WANT TO WELCOME YOU AS THEIR PRINCE!

WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

YOU'RE BACK, PRINCE.

THE DRAGON IN YOUR PALM WAS THE REAL THING!

DIDN'T I SAY YOU WERE OF NOBLE BIRTH, DESTINED TO RULE THE LAND?

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE TWIN PRINCE ABANDONED AT BIRTH. COME JOIN US, AS OUR KING.

I AM A COSMO-RALIAN REFUGEE ...

YOU MUST TELL IT FROM THE BEGINNING FOR HIM TO UNDER-STAND.

ㄱ

THIS IS YOUR DESTINY CALLING YOU.

BUT OF COURSE!

PRINCE? IS THAT WHAT MY MOTHER TOLD YOU?

LAY HIM DOWN AND I'LL TAKE A LOOK.

BLOOD!

PRINCE AFFLE ?

WHAT'S WRONG, AFFLE ?

OH...

MY WORD !

THAT MOTHER'S HALF MAD...

SHE NEEDED TO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS A BOY!

THIS IDIOT DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE SEX OF THE BABY HE TOOK!

?

ELDER! IS THE PRINCE ALL RIGHT?

...

THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE NEED A KING.

SORRY, I'M NOT A PRINCE.

#

WHA ...

WE'LL HAVE YOU REMAIN A PRINCE. I WILL PROTECT YOUR SECRET.

SPLIT IT!

IN ONE GO

CHANNEL ALL YOUR ENERGY INTO YOUR FINGER-TIPS AND

...

NOW SHOW ME THOSE POWERS THAT TORE THE DRAGON IN HALF.

SPLIT THAT JAR.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE POWER YET TO BEAT THE *ENEMY* ...

FRAGILE JARS ARE ONE THING;

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

ピク!

YOU SEEM PLEASED, ELDER...

PRINCE JIMSA IS HERE?! THAT'S BAD.

HERE'S WHY: PRINCE JIMSA LENT HER HIS POWER.

THAT POWER WAS BORN OF THE TWINS' EMPATHY.

BUT,

THE GREAT POWER NEEDED TO TOPPLE THE *ENEMY* CAN ONLY COME FROM THE TWO TOGETHER.

OR APART.

I DON'T KNOW IF THOSE TWO ARE BETTER OFF TOGETHER

THAT YOUNG MAN IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE RANK OF PRINCE... HE IS OF TRULY NOBLE BIRTH.

NOT REALLY. HE WON'T RUIN YOUR PLANS.

HEY, DID YOU ALL HEAR THE BOSS'S KID AFFLE IS A COSMO-RALIAN PRINCE?

DID YOU SEE THAT DEAD DRAGON IN THE SOUTHERN VALLEY? I HEAR AFFLE DID THAT.

SEE YOU ...

WOW!

TRAV-ELING IN STYLE!

THEY'RE LEAVING TOMOR-ROW.

7...

PRINCE AFFLE!

IT'S AFFLE!

SEVEN CYCLES HAVE GONE BY WITHOUT HER KNOWING ...

SHOULD I TELL MY MOTHER ABOUT MY SISTER?

...

ザワザワ

YOU THINK?

I GUESS HE WAS A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH.

WAS AFFLE ALWAYS THAT GOOD-LOOKING?

MOVE IT, GEEZER, IF YOU DON'T WANNA LOOK!

EVEN HIS HAIR COLOR LOOKS DIFFERENT...

オオ

AFFLE, SHOW US THE POWER YOU USED TO SPLIT THAT DRAGON!

FINE...

I CAN'T. IT'S TOO BIG.

SHOW THEM... ON THAT ROCK.

AHH...HA!

ガヤ

IT DIDN'T BUDGE.

ガヤガヤ

HE CAN'T DO IT.

I CAN'T!

FOCUS ALL YOUR ENERGY AND...

AGAIN!

THAT'S IT,

IN ONE GO!

SPLIT IT!

?

?

He did it!

WELL DONE!

NOW SHE'LL BE TAKEN BY THAT OLD MAN TO ASSUME THE THRONE.

I DON'T KNOW!

WHY DID YOU HELP HER?

WHY, WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO PART?

I... JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE HER STRUGGLE LIKE THAT.

WHAT CAN I DO?! THE ELDER TOLD HER TO GO WITH HIM AND SHE AGREED!

HMM... YOUR POWERS HAVE VARIOUS USES.

NOT NEXT TO ME!

MAY I SIT?

SUIT YOUR-SELF!

LIKE YOU, I WAS ONCE HAILED AS THE PRINCE.

A VAST NUMBER OF PEOPLE WAITED UPON ME.

AND THEN,

THE *ENEMY* ATTACKED AND MOST DIED.

WE SHARE A STRANGE FATE,

NO?

I DIDN'T SAY I WANTED TO TALK.

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO LIKE THE ELDER,

THOUGH WE'VE SPENT TIME TOGE-THER.

NO.

JUST BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE ME ?

WHY DID THEY CALL YOU PRINCE ?

IS HE MY ...

IS HE ...

WHY TELL ME THIS ?!

SISTER.

YOU'RE MY TWIN

YOU WERE A PRINCESS AND I WAS A PRINCE...

IT'S TRUE.

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

YOU CAN MEET YOUR REAL MOTHER.

WHY NOT COME WITH US?

I JUST NEED TO TRY ONE THING.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

!

UH...

I WISH YOU THE BEST.

DON'T BE STUPID, WHY WOULD I?

DO YOU FEEL THE SAME PAIN IN YOUR RIGHT HAND?

I'M GLAD.

FROM THE DRIPPING

IT DOESN'T HURT, BUT IT'S HOT

IT'S BURNING...

THE DRAGON IN MY HAND...

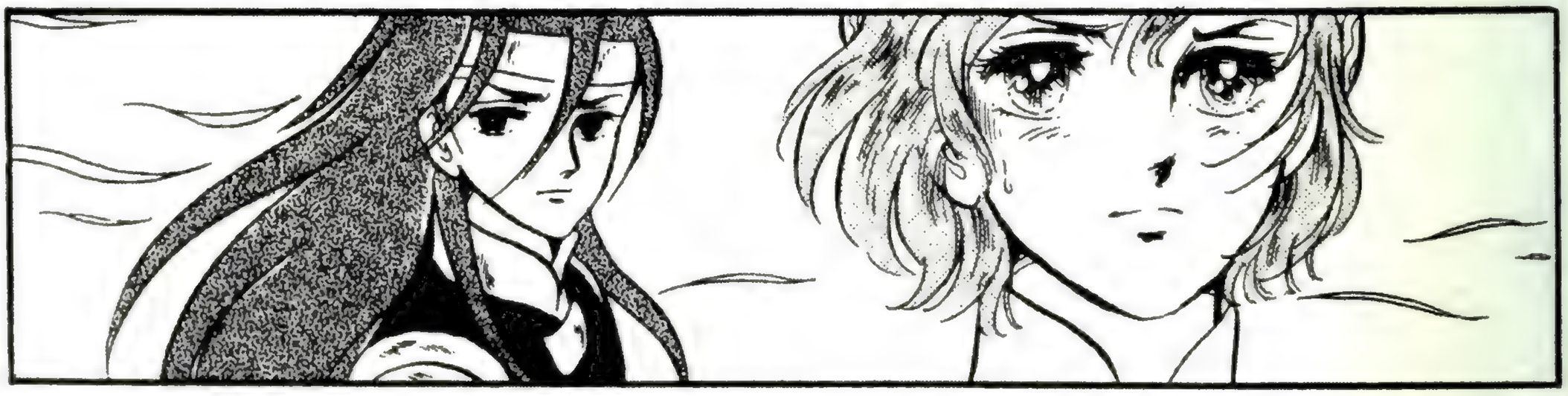
JERK!

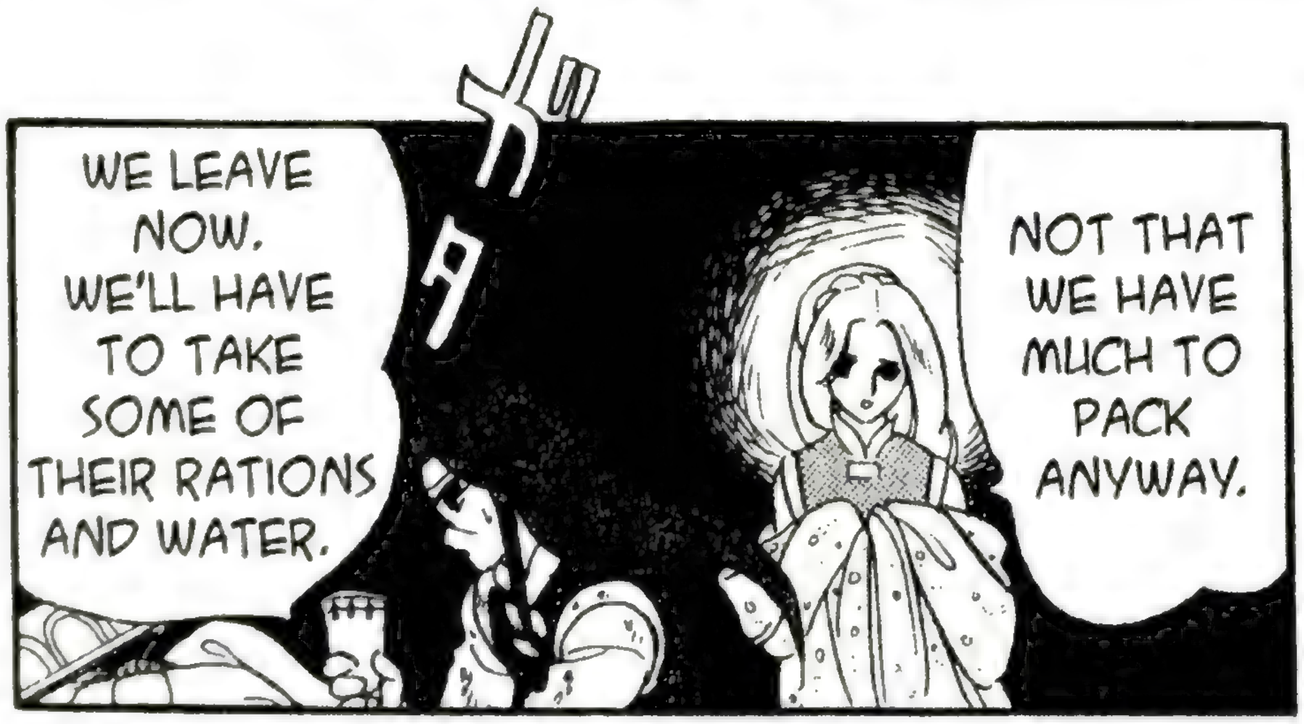
DAMN HIM!

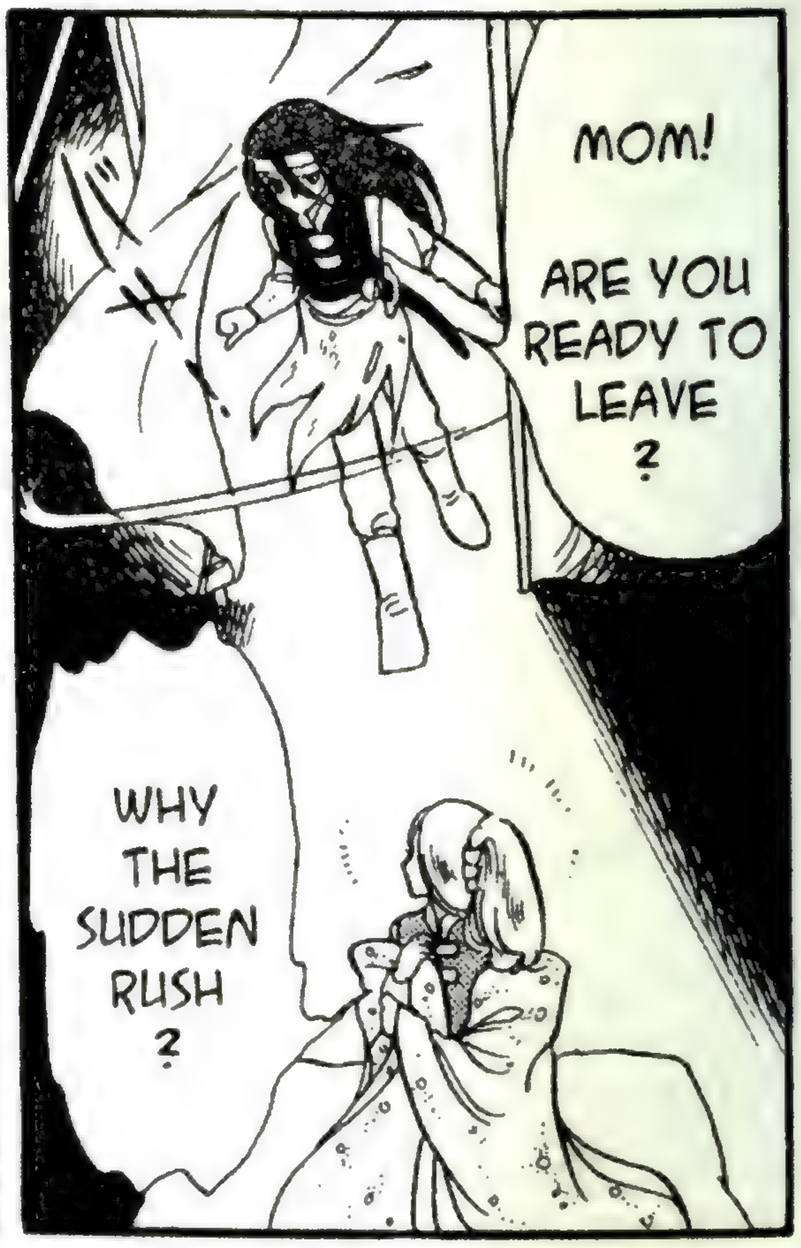
OF HIS BLOOD.

TAKE CARE, AFFLE!

WE'RE ROOT-ING FOR YA!




WE LEAVE NOW. WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE SOME OF THEIR RATIONS AND WATER.
NOT THAT WE HAVE MUCH TO PACK ANYWAY.


MOM! ARE YOU READY TO LEAVE ?
WHY THE SUDDEN RUSH ?

THERE'S NO TIME!
JIMSA, YOU SHOULD AT THE VERY LEAST TELL IL...

SORRY, BUT WE'RE LEAVING. I WON'T FORGET YOUR MANY KINDNESSES. THANK YOU.

WHERE TO, PRINCE JIMSA?

MOM, LET'S GO!

PRINCE JIMSAN.

ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW THEM,

IF SO,

I'LL COME ALONG!

WE'LL SEE ...

IT'S DOABLE IF THEY'RE WALKING ALL THE WAY.

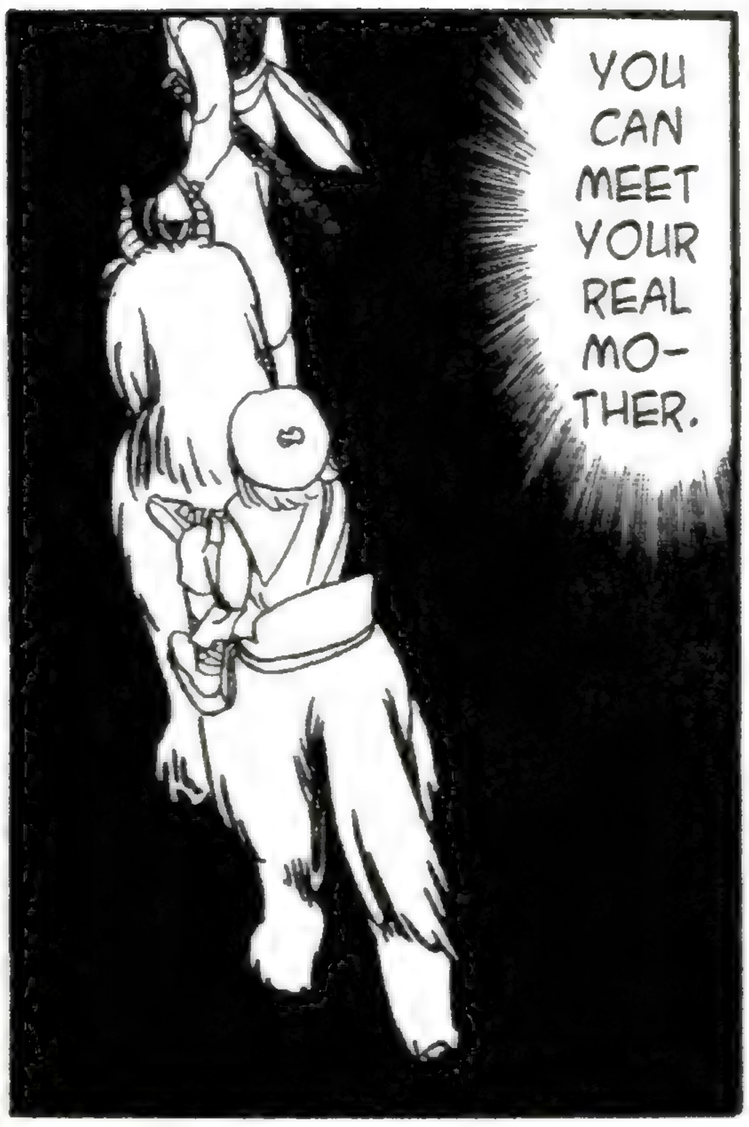
THEN WE'LL FOLLOW HIM.

I HOPE HE'S NOT WITH THOSE MACHINE-HATERS.

MASTER ON THE MOVE.

REALLY, BETH?

I WISH YOU THE BEST."


YOU CAN MEET YOUR REAL MO-THER.

"COME WITH US...

THE REASON IS UNCLEAR.

THEY RESIST... THE HUMANS RESIST.

BUT WE WILL WIPE OUT THOSE WHO RESIST.

THE RENEGADE FACTION IS GATHERED IN A VALLEY OF THE GAZPOS MOUNTAINS. ATTACK THEIR BASE. ATTACK THEIR BASE.

WHAT'S THAT?

SATEL-LITE?!

BY SATEL-LITE.

SO THEY'VE ADVANCED THAT FAR...

HOW DID THEY FIND US?

BASE WE'RE D WAS HIT BLOWN ! TO BITS. IT WASN'T EVEN DONE YET.

WHAT THE HELL ...

WITH SO FEW PEOPLE WE'VE HAD TO PULL 36-HOUR SHIFTS TO GET THOSE BASES BUILT!

ARE THEY TRYING TO STOP US FROM BUILDING ?

A MACHINE THAT ORBITS THIS PLANET LIKE THE MOON,

PACKED WITH RADARS THAT CAN SCAN SURFACE DETAILS.

DON'T LOSE HEART !

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO FIGHT THEM.

...

...

IT'S LIKELY ARANCHAN'S MOTHER COMPUTER

SEES ALL THAT WE DO.

IT CAN CRUSH US WHENEVER IT PLEASES...

YOU DID IT!

I CAN DO THIS MUCH ON MY OWN NOW, BUT...

WHEE!

LONG LIVE PRINCE AFFLE!

I KNEW IT!

PRINCE!

PRINCE AFFLE, WE CAN'T LOSE WITH YOU ON OUR SIDE!

WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE WITHOUT HIM?

?

WHAT DOES WINNING THESE SMALL BATTLES ACCOMPLISH?

THE *ENEMY* IS TOO GREAT.

THEN YOU, PRINCE, BECOME KING OF COSMORALIA!

STOP!

HOW LONG MUST WE REPEAT THE CYCLE?

NO MATTER HOW MANY MACHINES WE DESTROY, IT KEEPS BUILDING MORE.

MY POWERS ARE GREATER THAN YOU KNOW. MY ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO DESTROY THE MOTHER MACHINE.

ONCE YOUR HIGHNESS IS STRONG ENOUGH, WE CAN ATTACK ARANCHAN.

...

RUBBISH! FEAR NEVER ACCOM-PLISHED ANYTHING.

WHO TOLD YOU THAT ?

I HEAR 70% OF THE PLANET HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO MACHINES.

EVEN IF YOU DESTROY THE MOTHER MACHINE, HUMANS CAN'T LIVE HERE !

I HEARD PEOPLE CAN'T RE-PROGRAM MACHINES BUILT BY MACHINES !

LIES !

WE JUST NEED TO RELEASE IT FROM HER CONTROL.

THE MOTHER MACHINE'S CITY CAN BE REDESIGNED FOR HUMAN USE.

MACHINES WERE BUILT BY HUMANS TO BE USED BY THEM.

PRINCE, WAIT!

A"

DOES HE TALK WITH YOU ?

WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

ギク

IT MUST BE JIMSA WHO FILLED YOUR HEAD WITH SUCH IDEAS!

I SAID WAIT !

AHH ...

UGH ...

ARE YOU OKAY? I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN ...

WE NEED *YOUR* POWER !

MY POWERS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE *ENEMY*.

THE MURAT BLOOD RUNS IN YOU.

IT'S A MATTER OF MENTAL TRAINING. IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT, YOU COULD DO THIS TOO.

...

WHERE'S PRINCE JIMSA ?

I CAN USE AFFLE TO DRAW HIM OUT IF I HAVE TO.

BUT I'LL LEAVE HIM BE FOR NOW.

HE MUST BE NEAR ...

BUT DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR CRIPPLED MOTHER IS WITH US.

NEVER MIND ...

...

YOU WANT TO EASE HER PAIN, DON'T YOU?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, JIMSA ?

DON'T WORRY, MOM. I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND.

MUST YOU COURT DANGER ?

COULD IT HAVE BEEN AFFLE ?

THE PAIN'S GONE NOW ...

WHY DID I FEEL A BOLT SURGE THROUGH ME?

IL LEFT BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN TO LOOK AROUND, AND YOU ALSO OFTEN DISAPPEAR TO DO WHO KNOWS WHAT.

JIMSA, THE WORRY IS JUST TOO MUCH...

BUT NOW THAT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE.

I USED TO DREAM OF ONE DAY RETURNING TO OUR PEACEFUL ARANCHAN ...

AFFLE, WHERE ARE YOU?

AFFLE

I'M WORRIED.

WHAT HAPPENED?

HOW I LONG TO RETURN TO OUR PAST TOGETHER, EVEN IF ONLY IN MY DREAMS ...

MY LOVE...

SO YOU'RE OKAY.

...

I JUST GOT JOLTED WHEN I TOUCHED A MACHINE UNDER REPAIR.

I FELT A SHOCK, AND WAS AFRAID SOME-THING HAPPENED TO YOU.

YOU THINK I LOOK AFTER MY OWN SISTER FOR FUN?

FOR FUN?

YOU DISAGREE WITH THE ELDER, RIGHT?

DON'T FOLLOW ME INTO BATTLE FOR THE FUN OF IT.

WHY DO YOU ASK ME ABOUT EVERY-THING?

IF I'M CLOSE ENOUGH, I CAN FEEL YOUR PHYSICAL PAIN.

I HAVE A MOTHER... AND A SISTER. MY DUTY IS TO PROTECT BOTH.

I'M LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO FEEL THIS WAY IN A WORLD WITH NO FUTURE.

BUT THERE IS, AFFLE.

STOP IT!

THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO PROTECT ME!

WHEN YOU'RE AROUND ...

EVEN THESE BAD-LANDS SEEM TO GLOW!

LEAVE THE ELDER AND COME WITH ME. I'LL PROTECT YOU.

THEN QUIT.

IT'S YOUR FAULT!

NOBODY WOULD HAVE HAILED ME AS PRINCE AND MADE ME FIGHT.

IF YOU HADN'T AUGMENTED MY POWERS,

I'M NOT YOUR SISTER!

AFFLE
!
AFFLE!
...!

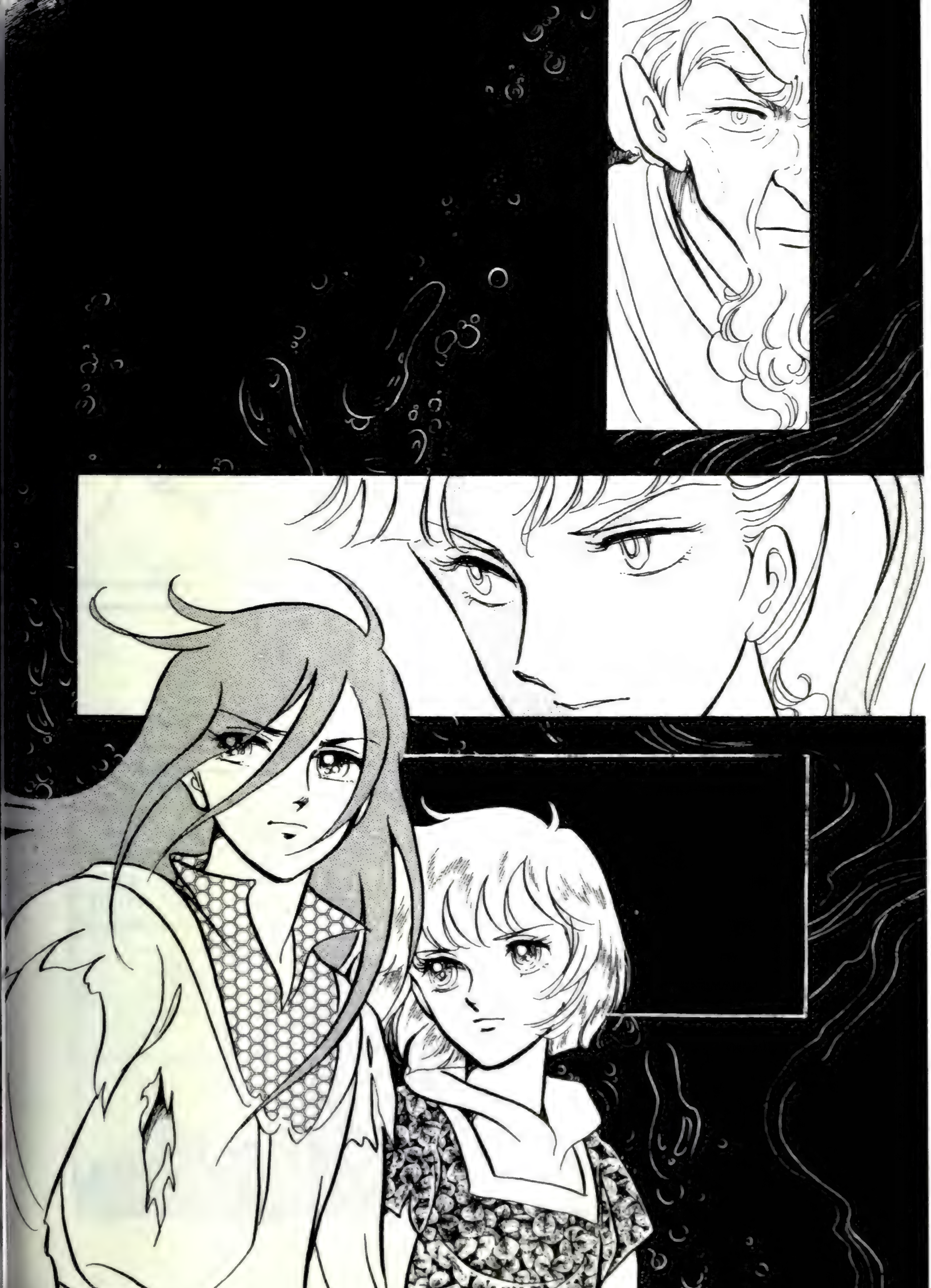
AEEE...

I WAS NEVER ABLE TO TAKE IN MY SURROUND-INGS THIS WAY.

I CAN LOVE... ALL.

AND YET I BRIM WITH HOPE.

IL SAID THIS PLANET WAS A LOST CAUSE...



WHAT WILL YOU DO ?

FIGHT. AFTER ALL, I WAS SENT TO THIS PLANET AS A WARRIOR.

THIS PLANET'S DONE FOR...

...

THEY'RE TRYING TO MECHANIZE THE REMAINING 30% OF THE PLANET ...

YOU CAN HEAR THE MACHINES EVEN HERE.

YOU CAME FROM ANOTHER PLANET.

YOU COULD GO TO YET ANOTHER !

MY HOME, RODLIAN, WAS DESTROYED. THERE'S NO POINT IN RUNNING.

I'M JUST WAITING TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE WEAPONS IN MY BODY.

I GUESS PRINCESS AFFLE IS BETTER SUITED FOR THAT PURPOSE THAN PRINCE JIMSA.

YOU'RE SENDING YOUR PROGENY TO ANOTHER PLANET...

ISN'T THAT ACTUALLY *YOUR* PLAN, ELDER ?

I'D HOPED WE COULD AT LEAST SEND THE SURVIVORS ...

THAT'S A SHAME ...

NOT ONE !

NOT ONE ?

IN RANGE OF MY SHIP THAT COULD SUPPORT LIFE, I'D ALREADY HAVE GONE !

IF THERE WERE A PLANET

SILENCE!

I CAN'T DIE UNTIL I DESTROY THOSE MACHINES!

NO !

BUT LIFE WILL SPRING ELSE-WHERE...

THOSE MEANT TO PERISH WILL PERISH.

TO CREATE A UTOPIA FOR ALL MANKIND !

THAT'S HOW I PRO-GRAMMED THEM!

THE MACHINES WILL TRY TO TAKE CONTROL.

WHEREVER LIFE IS BORN IN THE COSMOS,

RODLIAN WAS DESTROY-ED.

I WILL GO WITH THEM.

FLOWERS AND PLANTS THAT NEVER WITHER OR DIE. HUMANS HATE DEPLETION.

COVER MACHINE SURFACES WITH MACHINE VEGE-TATION,

SANDSTORMS: BURY ASTRIAS'S ENTIRE LAND MASS.

OH, JIMSA ...

IT'S A DREAM. YOUR FEVER'S MAKING YOU SEE THINGS!

FORGIVE ME, JIMSA.

I WANT TO GO BACK TO BEAUTIFUL ARAN-CHAN...

EVEN IF IT'S A DREAM,

THE KING IS COMING FOR US, JIMSA ...

THE KING... MY HUS-BAND... IS COMING ...

MOM !

MOM!

WATER...

WHERE CAN I FIND WATER IN THIS SANDSTORM?

WE'RE OUT OF WATER!

DON'T DIE...

AND DIG IT UP.

MOM, I'LL GO GET SOME WATER. WAIT FOR ME!

MOM, DON'T DIE!

BUT I'LL GO

THE STORM'S LASTED FOR 3 DAYS. THE WELL IS LIKELY BURIED.

I CAN'T BREATHE!
...

MY LORD!

ゴー

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ゴゴゴゴ

ARC?!

YOU'RE RECKLESS, MASTER.

EVEN A MACHINE WOULD GO HAYWIRE IN THIS WEATHER.

WE FOLLOW MASTER ALL THIS TIME.

WE NEARBY, BUT KEEP AWAY BECAUSE HUMANS HATE MACHINES.

BETH, SHE'S NEARBY. PLEASE GO!

BETH CAN MAKE WATER, BUT SHE MAY BREAK DOWN IN THIS SAND.

AYE AYE, SIR!

FOR-GET THAT ... I NEED WATER!

THE SPACESHIP IS ON CALL, TOO. WE CAN GO ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

WATER?

MY MOTHER'S ILL! HIGH FEVER. SHE MIGHT DIE. PLEASE GET ME WATER.

ALMOST THERE... THE STORM'S QUIETING DOWN...

OK, OK.

BETH, ARE YOU OK?

WHA...

WHAT IS THAT?!

PEDDLER ARC

MOM?!

MASTER!

IF SHE GOES WITH THEM, MOM WILL ALSO...

NO!

THAT KING IS CONTROLLED BY MACHINES!

SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING!

MASTER!!

I CAN'T BEAR THIS ANY-MORE ...

FOR-GIVE ME, JIMSA.

MOM...

DON'T ...

GO ...

BEEP BEEP

TO COME GET YOU...

I SHALL RETURN ...

MOM...

MOM!

OUI, OUI!

BETH, ZAP THEM!

THESE ANDROIDS NEVER LET UP!

OK, BETH, GET MASTER.

WE DON'T FEEL IT BECAUSE WE'RE SILICONE-BASED.

SAND!

SAND!

SAND!

MASTER!

TAKE COVER! GAUGES OUT OF WHACK.

MOM...

WHY!

WHY LEAVE ME ...

LADY WANTED TO GO. NO CHOICE. PROTECT MASTER ALL WE CAN HANDLE.

SHE WAS TAKEN RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

WHY DIDN'T YOU GO AFTER MY MOM?

AFTER THEM!

PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE TO ARANCHAN!

WE'RE GETTING MOTHER BACK.

WHAT?

I'LL GET HER BACK.

PEOPLE WHO ENTER ARANCHAN ARE FOREVER CHANGED.

BUT YOU MUST GIVE UP ON LADY.

MASTER, IT MAY SEEM CRUEL,

I'LL GO ALONE.

I SAID WE'RE GOING!

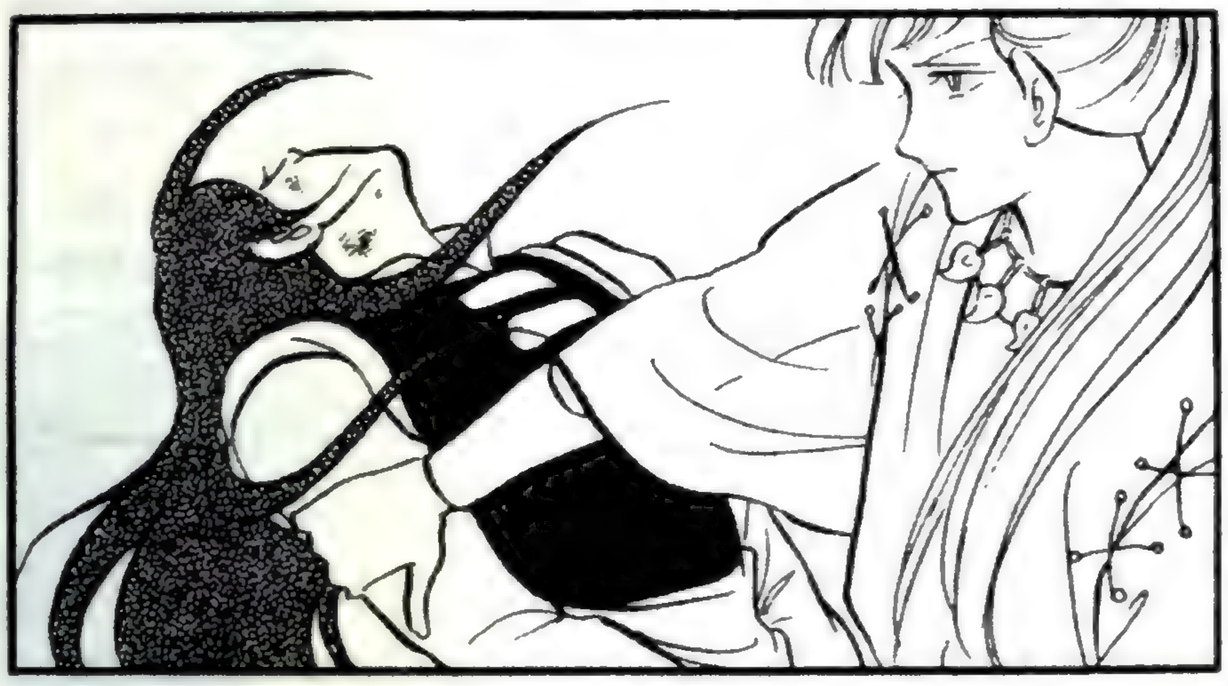
DON'T BE FOOLISH, MASTER! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

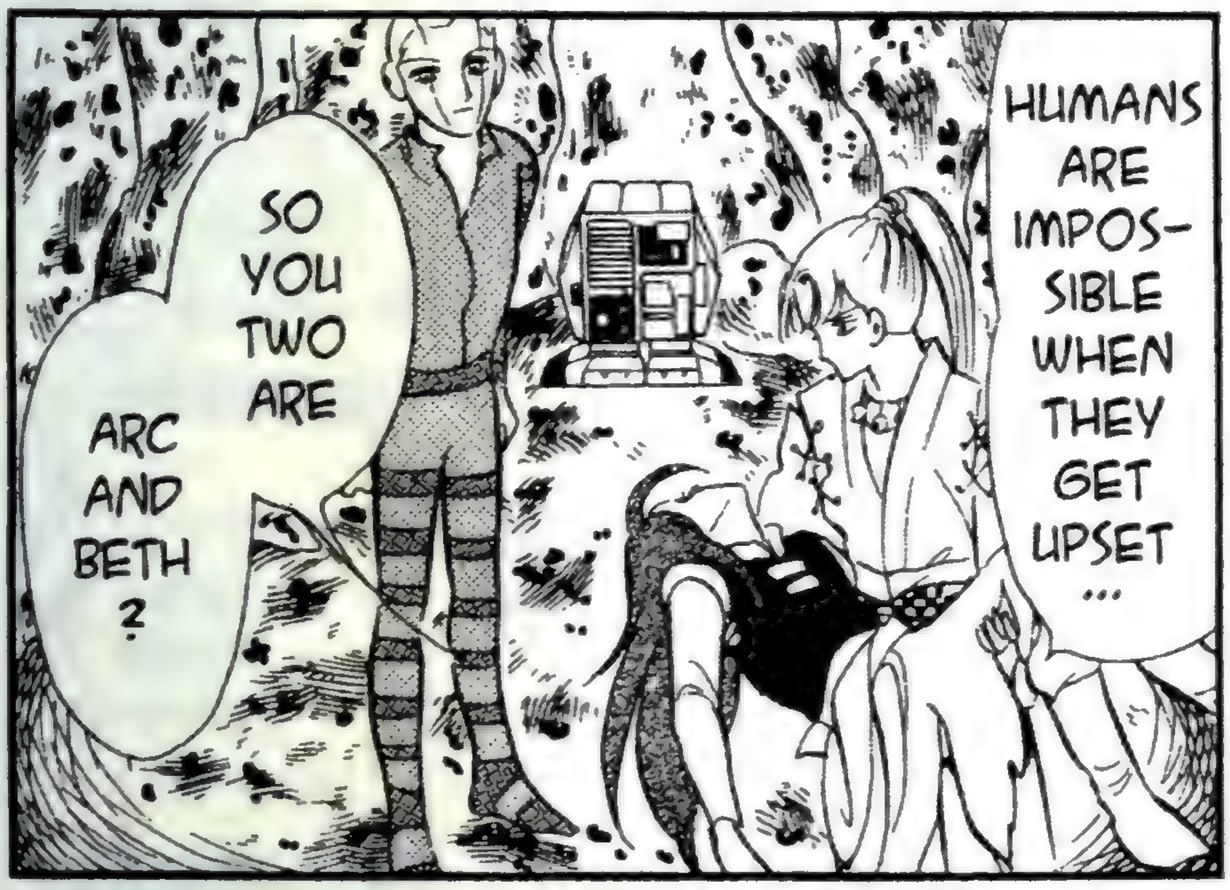
HE CAN'T. STOP HIM!

I'M GOING AFTER HER ...

IL, THE ENEMY TOOK MOTHER.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?




SO YOU TWO ARE ARC AND BETH ?
HUMANS ARE IMPOS-SIBLE WHEN THEY GET UPSET ...

WE'LL TEND TO HIS WOUNDS.
THANK YOU, WE CAN'T RAISE OUR HAND AGAINST OUR MASTER.
I HOPE I DIDN'T BREAK ANY BONES.
I COULDN'T SOFTEN MY BLOW.

AH ...
POOR THING...

IT DIDN'T HURT TOO MUCH, BUT...

WHAT WAS THAT PAIN IN MY CHEST?

ELDER KOOF, OUR CREATOR...

WHY DO YOU RESIST US?

YOU HAVE RESISTED US. WHY?

WE WERE PRO-GRAMMED BY NONE OTHER THAN YOU.

NO, EONS ...

ACROSS YEARS, GENERA-TIONS,

SUCH A THING ONLY EXISTS IN A DREAM.

A UTOPIA FOR ONE CAN'T BE A UTOPIA FOR ALL.

I WANTED TO BUILD A UTOPIA FOR ALL MANKIND... BUT THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

IT RUNS WITHOUT A GLITCH. THAT'S PROOF.

THERE ARE NO FLAWS. THE PROGRAM IS PERFECT.

ALL THESE PLANETS WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SACRIFICED.

HAD I SEEN SOONER HOW... DIABOLICAL YOU ARE,

THE OLD ME PRO-GRAMMED YOU! IT WAS A MISTAKE.

DAIO CENTAURUS 5

SOME ESCAPED YOUR CONTROL BY BLOWING THEM-SELVES TO BITS, WHILE OTHERS SUBMITTED TO AND BENEFITED FROM RULE BY MACHINES.

AND THEN THE PLANET CALLED GROVE. THEN RODLIAN,

DRIVING HUMANITY TO ITS DESTRUC-TION.

AND SENT IN COPIES OF YOUR PROGRAM, YOU SOUGHT PLANETS THAT COULD SUSTAIN LIFE

BUT ONCE HUMANS GET A TASTE OF CIVILIZATION, THEY RUN MADLY DOWN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION.

I DELAYED THEIR CIVILIZATION'S DEVELOPMENT SO THE PLANET WOULDN'T FALL INTO YOUR HANDS.

WHICH WAS INHABITED BY PRIMITIVE TRIBES.

I DRIFTED IN SPACE UNTIL I REACHED MURAT,

AND I . HUMANS SEEK CONVENIENCE AND LUXURY,

THAT'S JUST HOW YOU SEE IT.

IT IS NOT DESTRUC-TION. IT IS NOT INSANITY.

TO HAVE EVERY WISH FULFILLED IS NOT HAPPINESS !

PROVIDE THOSE THINGS.

THE ONLY HAPPINESS I'LL KNOW IS SEEING YOU DESTROY-ED!

SO BE IT.

TO TERMINATE ALL WHO RESIST.

I HAVE BEEN PROGRAM-MED

THAT IS WHY I HAVE LIVED THIS LONG: TO DESTROY YOU!

THAT WAS MY MISTAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

HOW?

UNDER-
STOOD.

IN ACCORDANCE
WITH MY PROGRAM,
YOU AND THOSE
WHO RESIST
THE CREATION
OF A UTOPIA...

WILL
BE
TERMINATED.

TERMINATED

TERMINATED

I STILL HAVE

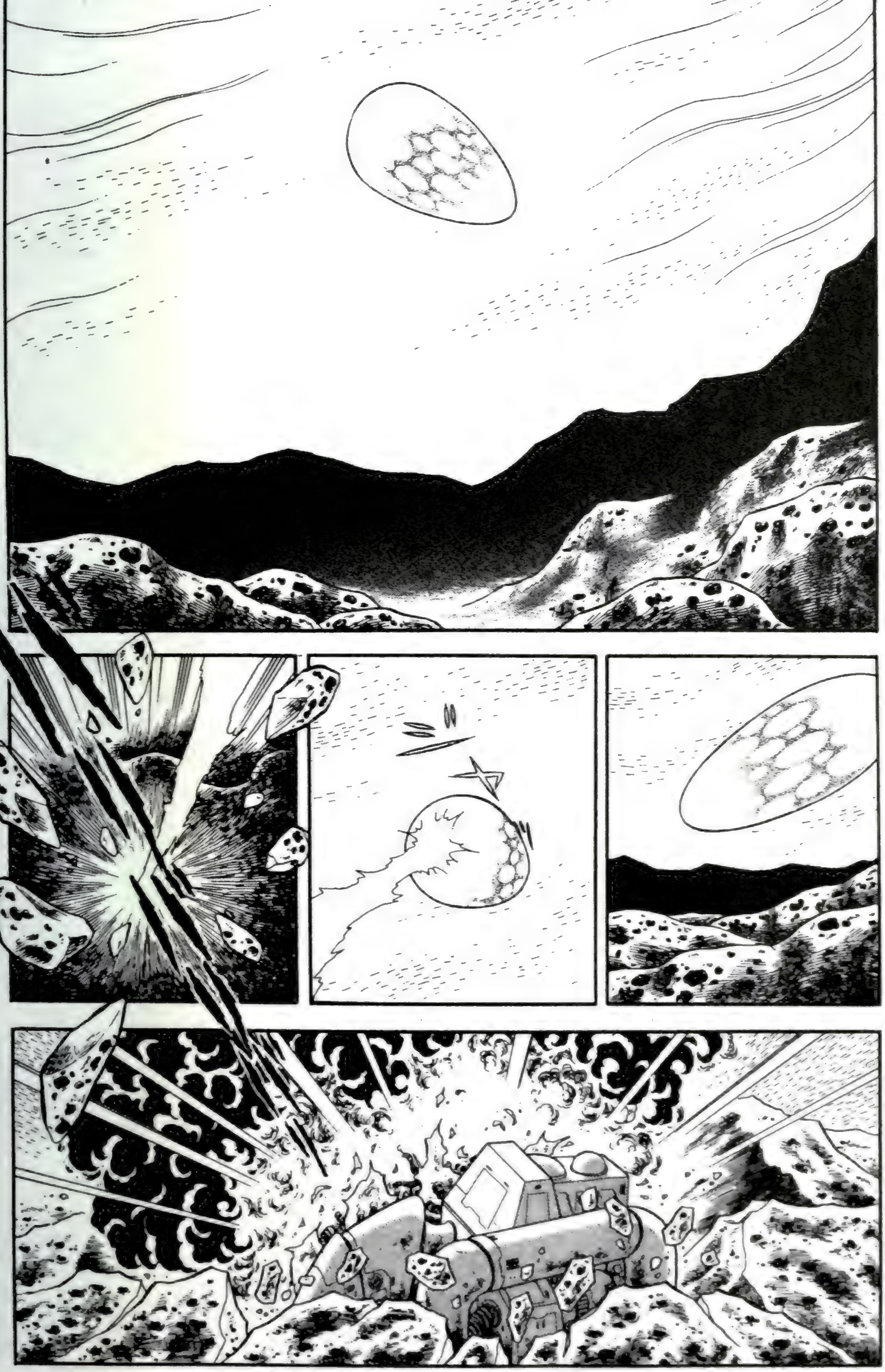
THAT SPACESHIP.

OUT OF ALLEGIANCE TO HUMANS WHO HAD DIED AN ETERNITY AGO ON A PLANET FAR AWAY...

THEY REJECTED HUMANS, SILENTLY WORKING IN THEIR PLACE

AND BECAME INDEPENDENT AS SOON AS THOSE HANDS FINISHED CARING FOR THEM.

MACHINES WERE BORN FROM THE HANDS OF MAN



PRINCE JIMSA AND THOSE ROBOTS ARE ON IT.

THAT STRANGE SHIP IS HERE AGAIN.

SO THEY'RE FRIENDS!

BUT THOSE ROBOTS OPERATE ON A DIFFERENT WAVELENGTH THAN THE *ENEMY.*

WE'LL BE SUR-ROUNDED BY MACHINES BEFORE WE KNOW IT.

ROBOTS AREN'T FRIENDS!

...

THAT'S HOW HUMANS SUCCUMBED TO MACHINES.

DAN-GEROUS THOUGHTS, BALGA.

IF WE HAD THEIR SHIP ...

THEIR METHOD OF ATTACK AND WEAPONRY ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO THE ENEMY'S.

BWUP

OUI, OUI!

LET'S GO, BETH. THE ENEMY'S HERE TO BOMB THE UNDER-GROUND BASE.

CALM

WHEN YOU RE-TURN,

YOU'LL NO LONGER BE MOTHER!

I SHALL RETURN TO COME GET YOU...

FORGIVE ME, JIMSA.

ENEMY PATROL!

BUT FEW CAN PILOT SHIPS USING OUR SPECIAL ENERGY SYSTEM.

PLENTY OF PARTS EVERY-WHERE. CAN MAKE AS MANY SHIPS AS WANTED.

BETH, WE'RE GOING IN!

YOUR CLAIR-VOYANCE IS BETTER THAN RADAR.

ARGH!

ARE YOU GOING AGAIN?

SHE'S ALL I'VE GOT NOW.

AFFLE'S THERE.

MASTER!
YOU'RE IN CHARGE HERE, ARC!
I'M GOING AFTER AFFLE!

THOSE WHO CAN MOVE, SHOOT DOWN THE MISSILES!

HURRY!

HUMAN POWERS AREN'T MEANT FOR FIGHTING.

THEY CAN'T BEAT THE MACHINES.

THEY EXIST TO ALLOW US TO CARRY ON OUR LINEAGE IN AN UNBROKEN LINE FOR ALL ETERNITY!

YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM.

YOU'D BE WISE TO FORMULATE AN ESCAPE PLAN, ELDER.

THE PRINCE LEFT OF HIS OWN ACCORD TO BOOST THE TROOPS' MORALE.

ELDER, WHERE'S AFFLE?

DID YOU LET HER OUTSIDE?

NO! IT'S HEADING TO MASTER'S LOCATION!

MISSILE VEERED 15 DEGREES TO LEFT.

MISSED MISSILE. WE MISSED.

AEELE...

I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP!

MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS!

IT'S DANGEROUS UP HERE. A GIRL SHOULD STAY IN THE UNDERGROUND BASE!

AEELE!

SO PLEASE, DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGER-OUS!

MOTHER'S GONE TO ARAN-CHAN.

YOU'RE ALL I HAVE NOW.

GET DOWN!

MASTER, INCOMING MISSILE! EVADE!

!ﺎﻨﻠﺘﻗ

...!!!
OOF!

THE BOULDER IS FALLING!

NO BROTHER!

BREAK

BRAWK-

BROTHER...

BROTHER-

AEEE...

THE PRINCE IS INJURED.

GET A STRETCH-ER!

CALL THE RESCUE SQUAD!

STAY STILL. YOU'LL MAKE YOUR WOUNDS WORSE!

LET GO!

MY BROTHER'S ...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

PRINCE AELLE...

PRINCE!

AAARGH...

UGH!

UHHH...

AFFLE ...

BROTH...

JIMSA!

... JUST HEARING YOU CALL OUT TO ME... IS ENOUGH.

3 INJURED VERTEBRAE, CRACKED RIBS ABOVE HIS RIGHT LUNG, A BROKEN RIGHT ANKLE, BLOWS TO THE HEAD.

IS PRINCE JIMSA HURT ?!

I'VE TREATED HIM. THE ANESTHETIC HAS WORN OFF, BUT HE DOESN'T WANT PAIN KILLERS.

IL, WE'RE IN TROUBLE. EVEN IF HE DOESN'T DIE FROM HIS WOUNDS, HIS HEART WILL GIVE IN.

!!

ARE YOU TAKING AFFLE'S PAIN UPON YOUR-SELF TOO?

YOU'LL DIE LIKE THIS.

THIS IS HORRIBLE !

STERILE ROOM. NO ENTRY. HOW DO YOU FEEL?

NO DOUBT YOU'RE ENDURING HER PAIN FOR HER.

I LEARNED THAT WHEN I SNUCK ONTO BASE. SHE LOOKED FINE.

THERE'S NO NEED. SHE ONLY HAD A BROKEN ARM AND SOME WOUNDS.

I WANT TO PROTECT HER.

I WANT TO BE BY HER SIDE.

YOU MUST FOCUS ON HEALING YOUR OWN WOUNDS.

BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME! YOU'RE BADLY INJURED YOURSELF!

ゴォォ!!

IF I CAN'T DO THAT,

THEN AT LEAST ...

AH ...

UGH ...

PRINCE!

STOP! YOU'LL REALLY DIE.

DON'T ...

STOP ...

IF YOU CAN'T HELP, THEN I'LL...

MOVE!

OW ...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT PRINCE JIMSA. THE ROBOTS FOUND HIM AND TOOK HIM BACK.

NOTHING...

WHAT'S WRONG, PRINCE AFFLE?

IS HE...

IT STARTED HURTING ALL OF A SUDDEN ...

HE WAS HURT PROTECTING ME. YOU SHOULD HAVE TREATED HIM!

SO?

HE HAD ROBOTS WITH HIM ...

YOU'RE THE ONLY PRINCE FOR US.

DON'T WORRY. YOUR WOUNDS WILL HEAL IN A FEW DAYS.

I'VE HEARD MURAT MEDICINE WORKS LIKE A MIRACLE. WHY DIDN'T YOU TEND TO JIMSA?

IL!!

SO IF YOU KNEW WHERE HE WAS, YOU'D TREAT HIM?

ALAS, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'RE HIDING...

HE'S NOT ONLY BADLY HURT, HE'S USING HIS EMPATHY. HIS HEART IS WEAK. HE MAY NOT MAKE IT.

DIE?!

PRINCE JIMSA IS IN A COMA. THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE HE'LL DIE.

WE'LL TAKE THE SECRET PASSAGE SO OTHERS WON'T NOTICE.

ナヤ!!

...

HE'S MY BROTH-ER.

I'M GOING, TOO. YOU CAN'T STOP ME.

NO!

...

PRINCE AFFLE, YOU STAY HERE. I'LL GO.

NEITHER IS THE WOUNDED PRINCE.

THE ELDER ISN'T HERE.

THERE'S A HUGE NUMBER OF ENEMY PATROL SHIPS IN THE AIR!

INFORM THE ELDER!

WHOAH

BEEP BEEP

WE FLY. ENEMY FLIES. THEY FOLLOW US.

UNKNOWN. PROBABLY A RECON MISSION TO CHECK OUR SPACECRAFT.

WHAT'S THIS ?

WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF MASTER FIRST. WE'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER.

THEY'RE LIKELY SEARCHING FOR OUR COMMAND SHIP.

THEY ARE FOLLOWING US!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

TO BIDE TIME.

WE CAN ENTER ONE OF THESE TUNNELS

WE JUST DELAYED THEIR FINDING US,

BUT IF WE GET TO THE COMMAND SHIP, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DESTROY US SO EASILY.

GOT RID OF THEM!

CHANGE DIRECTION.

OUR ENERGY SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THIS PLANET'S, THOUGH YOU CAN FIND MANY OF THE RAW MATERIALS HERE.

THERE'S NO SOUND OR SENSE OF SPEED, BUT WE'VE COME SO FAR...

WHAT SPEED!

...

BACK TO OUR HOME PLANET IF THERE ARE NO CRITICAL MAL-FUNCTIONS.

HOW FAR CAN YOU FLY?

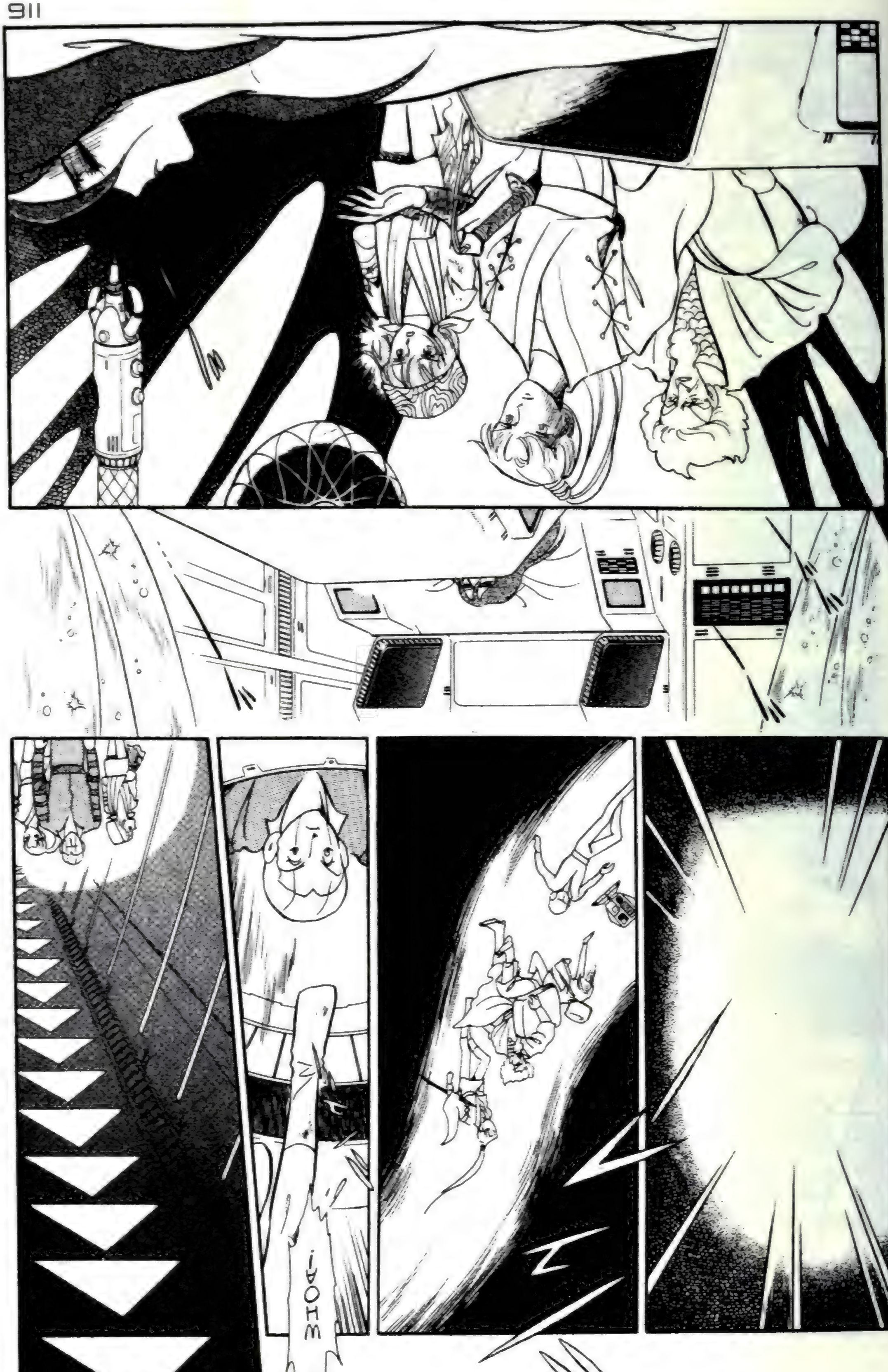
THERE IT IS ...

WHERE?!

THAT HILL THERE IS OUR SHIP— IT'S CAMOU-FLAGED.

...!

911



RESUSCITATIVE SYSTEM HAD NO EFFECT.

NO VITAL SIGNS. NO VITAL SIGNS.

BROTHER!!

PRINCE JIMSAN.

JIMSA...

IS HE DEAD, BETH?

TSK ...

PRINCESS AFFLE !

NO! BROTHER ...

BROTHER!

NOT BRAIN DEAD, BUT NEAR DEAD.

NO ...

HOW CARELESS, LOSING YOUR MASTER LIKE THIS !

ROBOTS, HELP ME!

PRINCESS AEELE!

IL ...

IL, TELL ME:

WHAT IS EMPATHY ?

I CALLED IT THAT BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT WORD.

PRINCE JIMSA FEELS YOUR SUFFERING AND PAIN AS IF THEY WERE HIS OWN.

HOW CAN I DO THE SAME ?

HE ALSO LESSENS THE BURDENS ON YOUR BODY AND THEREBY HEALS YOU.

BUT IN DOING SO, HE FORGOT ABOUT HIMSELF AND SPENT ALL HIS STRENGTH.

I DON'T KNOW ... IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME.

...

!!

GET BETTER ...

...

BROTHI

DON'T ...

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.

I WANT YOU TO HEAL.

PRINCE AELLE!

PRINCE!

THE FIFTH PLANET OF THE SOL SYSTEM ?

GROVE?

OUR PLANET? IT'S GROVE.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH PLANET IT'S FROM ...

WHAT TECH-NOLOGY !

WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR HOME, THOUGH OUR OLD MASTER IS SURELY DEAD.

REALLY? WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR ALMOST 20,000 YEARS.

IT MUST BE DUST.

THAT PLANET CAN'T POSSIBLY EXIST ANY LONGER ...

INSTEAD, MOTHER'S ARRIVAL DROVE THEM TO DESTRUCTION...

THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD RETURN TO A NATURAL WAY OF LIFE.

ARTIFICIAL NATURE.

THAT ERA PEAKED AND I HAD HOPED

IT WAS SAID TO HAVE HAD AN ERA OF AMAZING SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES...

WHICH PLANET WAS IT ...

THEY WERE CONTENT WITH MOTHER'S PERFECT COPY OF NATURE,

AND DID WHATEVER SHE WILLED.

WHEN THEY REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED,

RODLIAN DID THE SAME AS GROVE, BUT EVEN AFTER ITS DESTRUCTION

AND SO YOU MOVED ON TO THE NEXT PLANET, TAKING YOUR PEOPLE'S EGGS AND SPERMS WITH YOU TO CREATE DESCEN-DANTS...

OUR CYBORG WARRIORS PURSUED MOTHER, TRYING TO FORESTALL HER, UNTIL THEIR OWN DEMISE.

THEY CHOSE TO DESTROY THEM-SELVES.

THEY USED A VAST NUMBER OF NEUTRON BOMBS TO BLOW THEMSELVES TO BITS.

...

I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE OTHERS IN AGES.

I'M LIKELY THE LAST ONE STILL ALIVE.

HELPING THOSE WHO RESIST HER.

ONCE CON-TROLLED BY MOTHER ARE NOW HERE,

HOW ODD THAT THE SURVIVORS OF THOSE RUINED PLANETS

I HAVEN'T BELIEVED IN DESTINY IN A LONG TIME ...

BUT MAYBE IT'S NOT MAN'S PLACE TO DECIDE HOW THINGS SHOULD UNFOLD ...

YET AT THE SAME TIME,

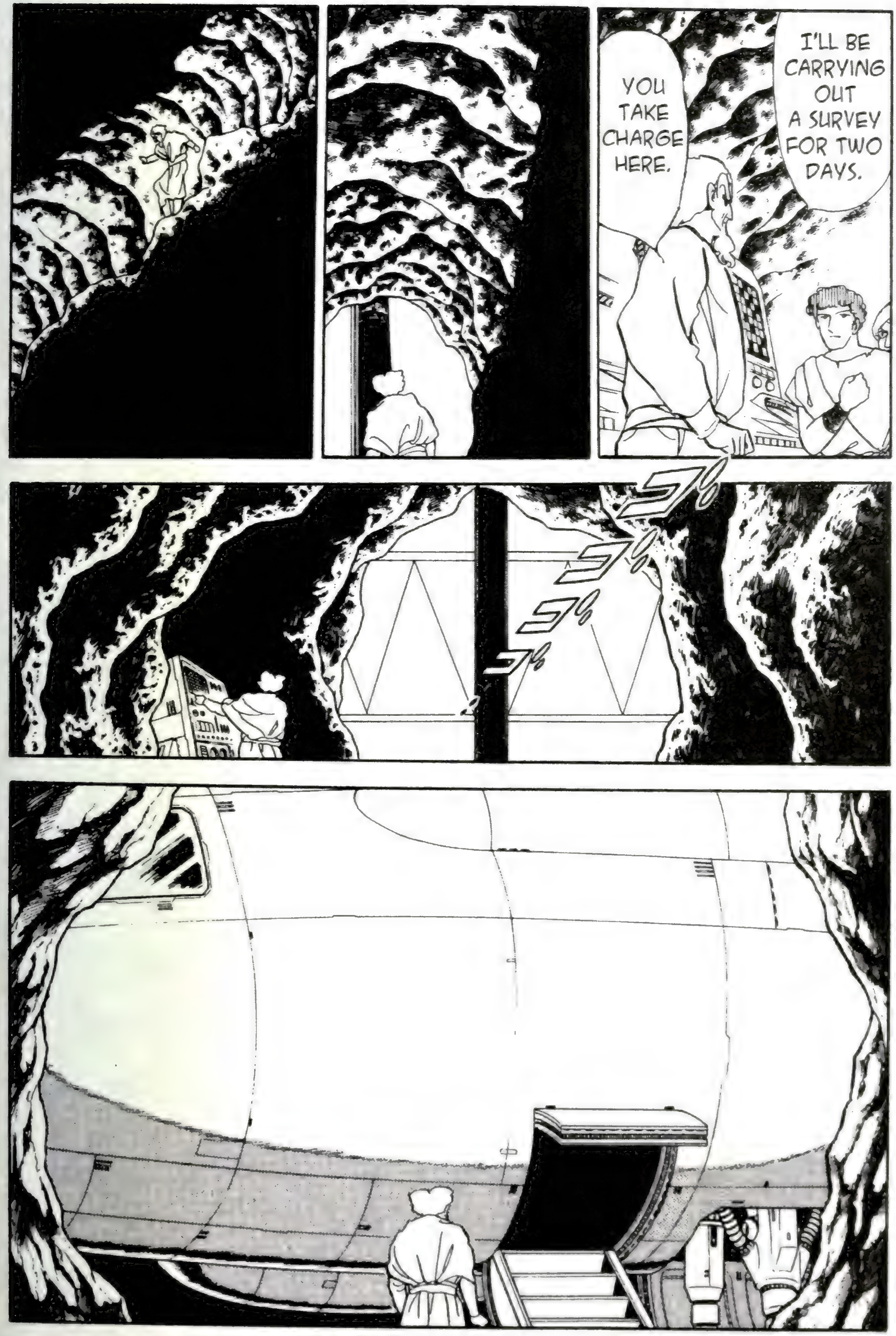
NEW LIFE IS BEING BORN, WITHOUT ANYONE'S HELP,

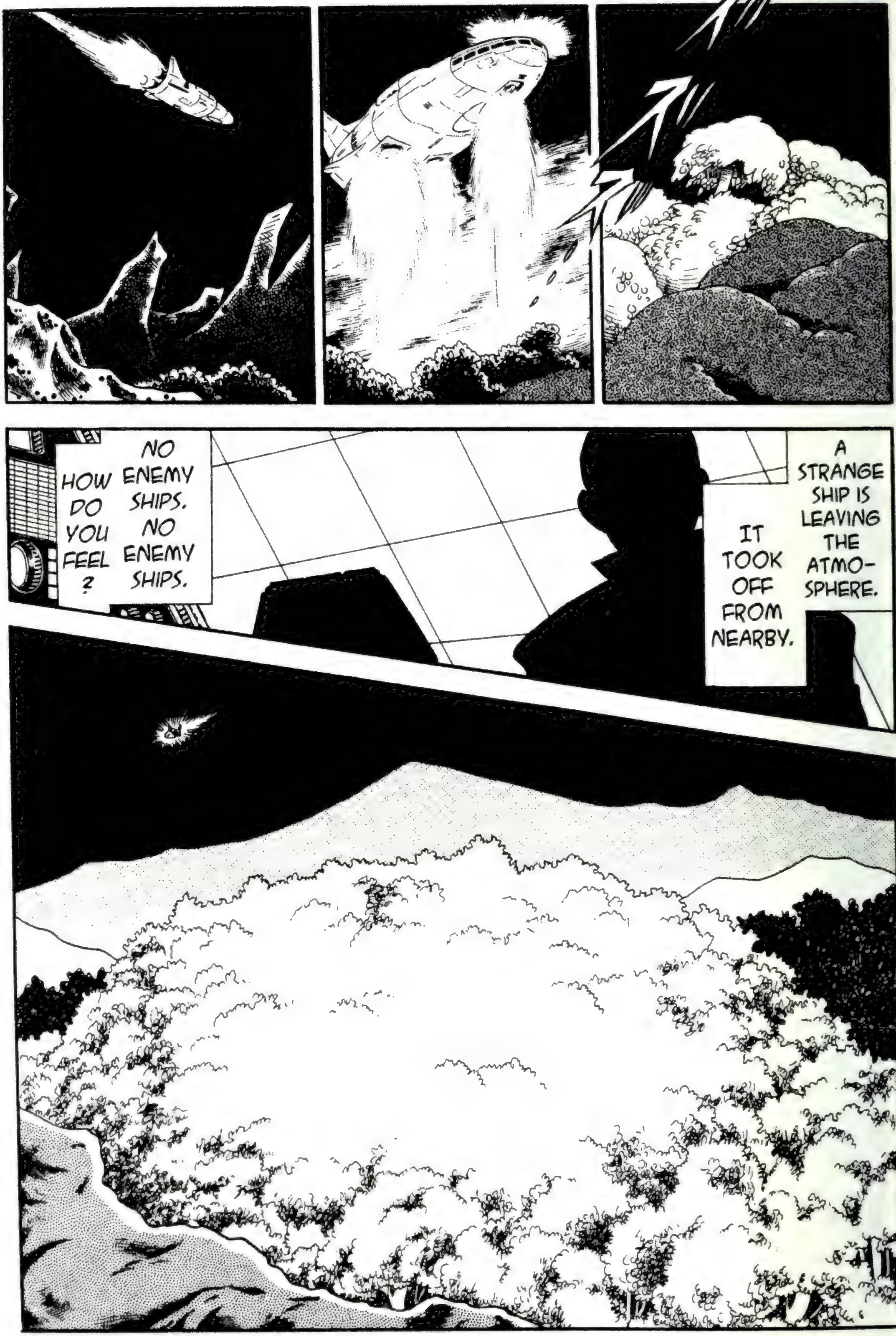
LET THE DOOMED MEET THEIR FATE...

LET THE DYING DIE...

LET THINGS BE AS THEY ARE...

WITHIN
THE
VACUUM
OF THE
COSMOS...


YOU TAKE CHARGE HERE.
I'LL BE CARRYING OUT A SURVEY FOR TWO DAYS.


HOW DO YOU FEEL ?
NO ENEMY SHIPS. NO ENEMY SHIPS.
IT TOOK OFF FROM NEARBY.
A STRANGE SHIP IS LEAVING THE ATMO-SPHERE.

ENEMY PATROL SHIPS!

DIRECTLY ABOVE US!

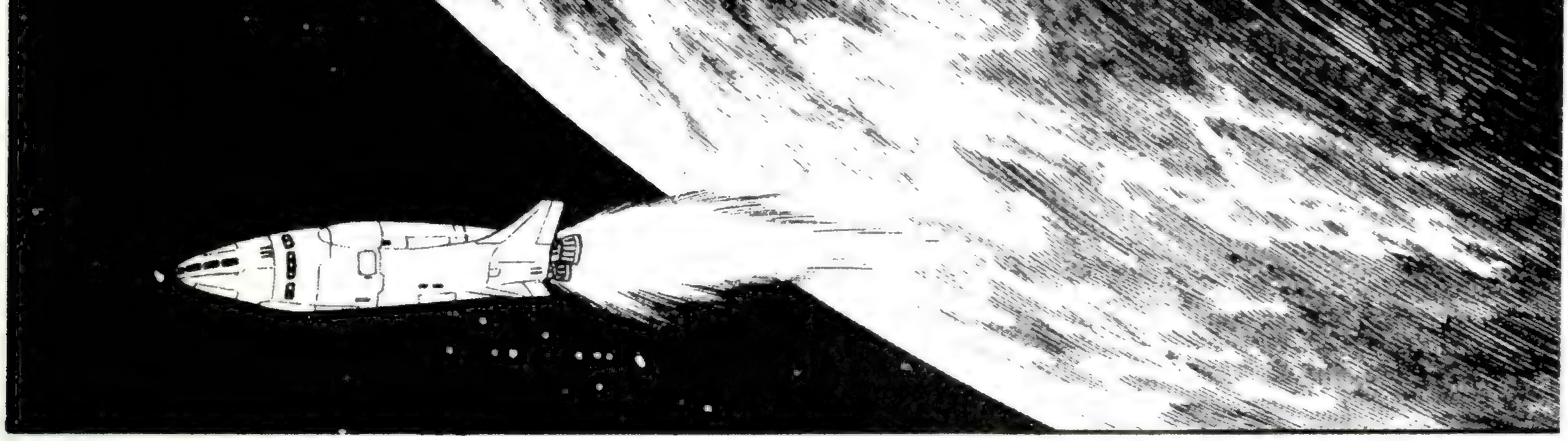
I WAS DIS-TRACTED BY THE OTHER SHIP AND ALLOWED THEM TO FIND US!

UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL'S MOTHER SHIP DISCOVERED 650 KM WNW. CAMOU-FLAGED.

LIKELY ALIEN.

CONVEN-TIONAL WEAPONS CANNOT DESTROY IT.

MUST DEVELOP NEW WEAPONS.



FOND OLD SPACESHIP, WE'VE TRAVELED A LONG WAY TOGETHER

OVER WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY. MY FELLOW TRAVELER:

FLY NOW

THIS SHALL BE OUR FINAL VOYAGE.

TO ASTRIAS ...

ASTRIAS WAS TURNING INTO A MECHANIZED PLANET.

THE CONVERSION CONTINUED DAY AND NIGHT, DRIVEN BY MACHINES THAT KNEW NO REST,

WITH 90% OF ITS SURFACE ALREADY UNFIT FOR MAN.

MOTHER MACHINE, REIGNING FROM THE CAPITAL, ARANCHAN, CONTINUED HER WORK "FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND"...

FOR THE FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE SHE HAD WON OVER, THOSE "WHOSE HEARTS LONGED FOR PEACE AND HAPPINESS."

TAKE COVER!

TAKE COVER! MISSILES INCOM-ING!

THE 10% OF NATURAL LAND LEFT

WHILE FIGHTING THE MACHINES.

SURVIVORS OF THE MECHANI-ZATION LIVED OFF

THE MACHINES SINCE BEFORE ASTRIAS MET ITS FATE.

AMONG THEM WAS A VETERAN WARRIOR WHO HAD BEEN FIGHTING

WOW!

YOU DID IT, IL! THAT WEAPON IS AMAZING.

THIS BODY WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER.

AND I'M OUT OF AMMO.

DAMN.

NOR OF MINE...

FIGHTING BY YOUR SIDE WASN'T A PART OF MY PLAN TO BEGIN WITH.

IT'S TOO LATE ANYWAY. A WARRIOR'S FATE IS TO FIGHT THE ENEMY.

I'M ALL OUT OF PARTS.

I CAN'T FIX YOU ANY-MORE.

AMONG THEM WERE ALSO THE TWINS, JIMSA AND AFFLE.

BORN TO ROYALTY, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS WERE ONE ANOTHER'S ONLY REAL FAMILY.

AFFLE ...

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WHY AREN'T YOU SLEEPING? YOU'RE STILL...

DON'T WANDER FAR... IT WORRIES ME.

YOU'RE NOT FULLY RECOVERED, EITHER.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU IF THE ENEMY COMES...

I'LL FIGHT 'EM. YOU'RE HURT. GET SOME SLEEP!

I DECIDED TO FIGHT THEM. I'VE CHANGED.

WE CAN'T SURVIVE IF WE KEEP RUNNING. WE'RE ALL AGREED.

I'M A GIRL, BUT I'VE GOT SPECIAL POWERS... SO I FIGURED I OUGHT TO FIGHT.

AEEE...

I'LL STAY NEAR.

JIMSA, IF YOU'RE NOT NEARBY, MY POWERS DON'T GET AMPLIFIED.

OUI, OUI, AGREED.

THERE IT IS AGAIN, BETH: MASTER'S STRONG EMOTIONS DIRECTED AT THAT GIRL.

ガ!

SEEMS YOU'VE TRAVELED A LONG WAY FOR ONLY 2 DAYS.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, ELDER?

AM I RIGHT?

YOU SEE, IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE. MY GUESS IS YOU WENT TO INSPECT YOUR SPACECRAFT.

SO... HOW ARE YOUR PLANS FOR ESCAPE PANNING OUT?

THEY CAN FLY WITHIN THE ATMOSPHERE, BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE IT YET.

NO ONE ON THIS PLANET HAS YOUR INSIGHT.

IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE, INDEED.

I'M ARMING MY CRAFT FOR THE FINAL SHOWDOWN.

MY SHIP DOESN'T HAVE THE RANGE TO SEARCH FOR OTHER LIVING PLANETS.

AS I SAID,

"SHOW-DOWN"?

DID YOU SAY

WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING?

WHAT?

THAT'S RIGHT.

MY SHIP IS THE SIZE OF ASTRIAS'S MOON.

THE ENEMY WILL CERTAINLY NOTICE IF IT DRAWS NEAR,

AND THAT WILL DIVERT HALF OF THEIR FORCES.

I'VE PROGRAMMED THE SHIP TO ATTACK ON AUTO-PILOT.

THE AUTO-ATTACK PROGRAM IS LINKED TO THESE TRANSMITTERS.

YOU MUST ALL PLANT THEM AROUND ARANCHAN—

AS MANY AND AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE.

TO THAT EERIE CAPITAL, ARANCHAN!

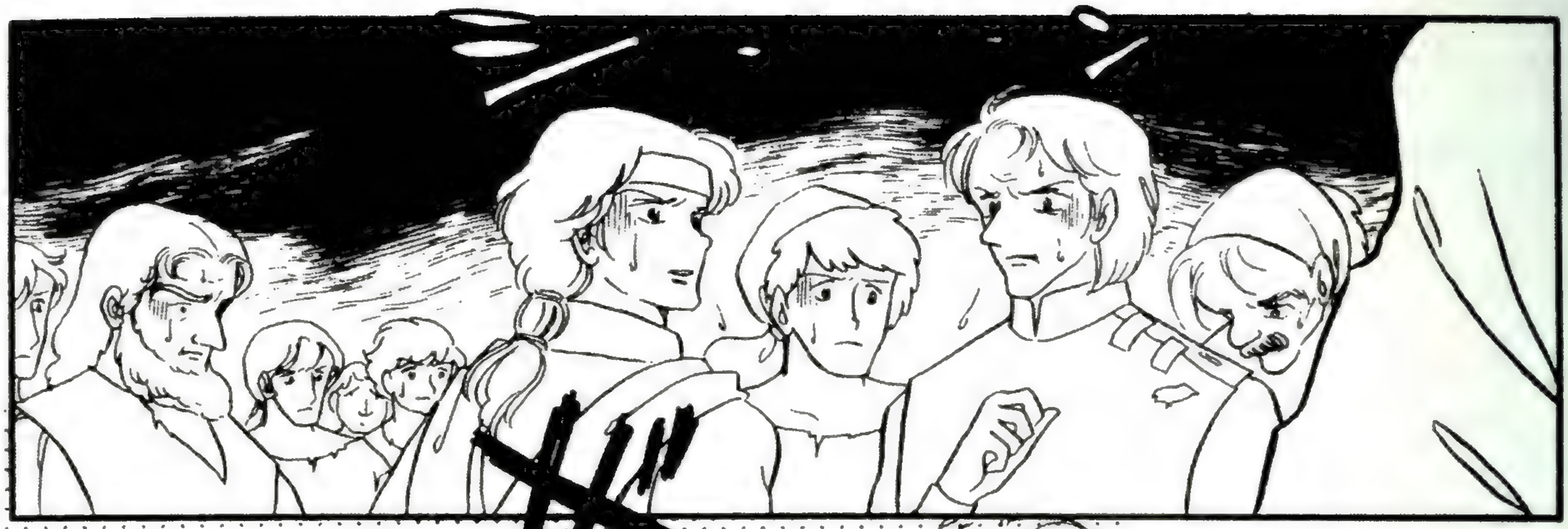
I HEARD IT'S NOT FIT FOR HUMANS ...

TO ARANCHAN!

THE FIRST AND LAST TIME WE CAN MOUNT AN ATTACK THIS LARGE.

#7

THINK OF THIS AS YOUR FINAL BATTLE.



FEAR.

LET'S DO IT!

A SMALL WAVE OF ATTACKS ISN'T GOING TO MAKE A DENT IN THEIR FORCES ...

IF IT'S A WAY FOR US TO SURVIVE...

WHETHER WE PLANT A HUNDRED, TWO HUNDRED ...

LET'S GO FOR IT!

IF IT MEANS JIMSA AND I WILL LIVE!

TO SURVIVE!

IF WE CAN ONLY DESTROY HALF OF THE ENEMY, WE'LL STILL GIVE IT OUR ALL

ㄱ...

ㄱㄱㄱㄱㄱㄱ

WE'LL FIGHT!

THE PRINCE IS RIGHT.

YEAH!

THE PRINCE HAD BEEN SO UNCO-OPERATIVE ...

WHY NOW?

LET'S GET 'EM!

LONG LIVE THE PRINCE!

LONG LIVE PRINCE AFFLE!

YOU USED TELEPATHY TO LET ME HEAR THE ENTIRE MEETING.

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. DON'T WORRY.

I'VE BEEN WAIT-ING.

YOU'RE SO STRONG ...

IF THERE'S A CHANCE FOR US TO LIVE, I WANT TO TAKE IT!

IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE OUR MOVE. THIS IS OUR CHANCE.

CAN I ...

HOLD YOU ?

I WANT YOU TO LIVE... I WANT TO FEEL YOU LIVE FOREVER.

IT'S DAN-GEROUS, AFFLE.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO DO IT.

JUST RUN...

I LOVE YOU!

WE HAVE TO FIGHT.

IF YOU WANT US TO LIVE,

I HAVE TO DO IT, JIMSA.

JIMSA'S... OR AFFLE'S?

HM, WHOSE CRY WAS THAT?

"I LOVE YOU!"

MAKES SENSE, WITH THE FINAL BATTLE AHEAD.

PRINCE JIMSA.

MOST LIKELY TO SEE

WHERE DID PRINCE AFFLE GO THIS LATE AT NIGHT ?

ぎくり

YEAH ...

WE ALL KNOW ...

PRINCE AFFLE'S A GIRL, RIGHT ?

A SIBLING MARRIAGE WOULDN'T BE RIGHT IF THINGS WERE NORMAL... BUT, YOU KNOW, I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM TOGETHER.

THOSE TWO ARE LIKE LOVERS.

I'D RATH-ER ...

I CAN'T ACCEPT MACHINES ARTIFICIALLY BREEDING HUMANS.

THERE ARE NO WOMEN TO BECOME LEFT OUR WIVES.

オオー！

FORWARD!

RENO-
VATED
SHIP

GOING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND CROSSING THE VALLEY, BEFORE THEY EVEN REACHED THE MACHINE CITY LIMITS.

A THIRD LOST THEIR LIVES

THE HUMAN ATTACK SEEMED FEEBLE IN THE FACE OF THE MACHINES.

BUT THE HUMAN BEINGS DIDN'T BACK DOWN.

DO YOUR BEST! PLANT THOSE DEVICES AS CLOSE TO ARANCHAN AS POSSIBLE!

THOSE STAYING BEHIND BACK UP THE ADVANCE TEAMS.

SPLIT UP INTO YOUR GROUPS.

SO THE *ENEMY* SHOULDN'T NOTICE THEM.

UNTIL THEY'RE TRIGGERED, THEY'LL LOOK LIKE CLUMPS OF DIRT,

NOW GO!

THEY'RE HERE!

THESE ENEMY ATTACK PLANES ARE NEW!

THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE PATROL PLANES WE SAW BEFORE. THEY'RE ARMED TO THE TEETH!

AFFLE, RETREAT!

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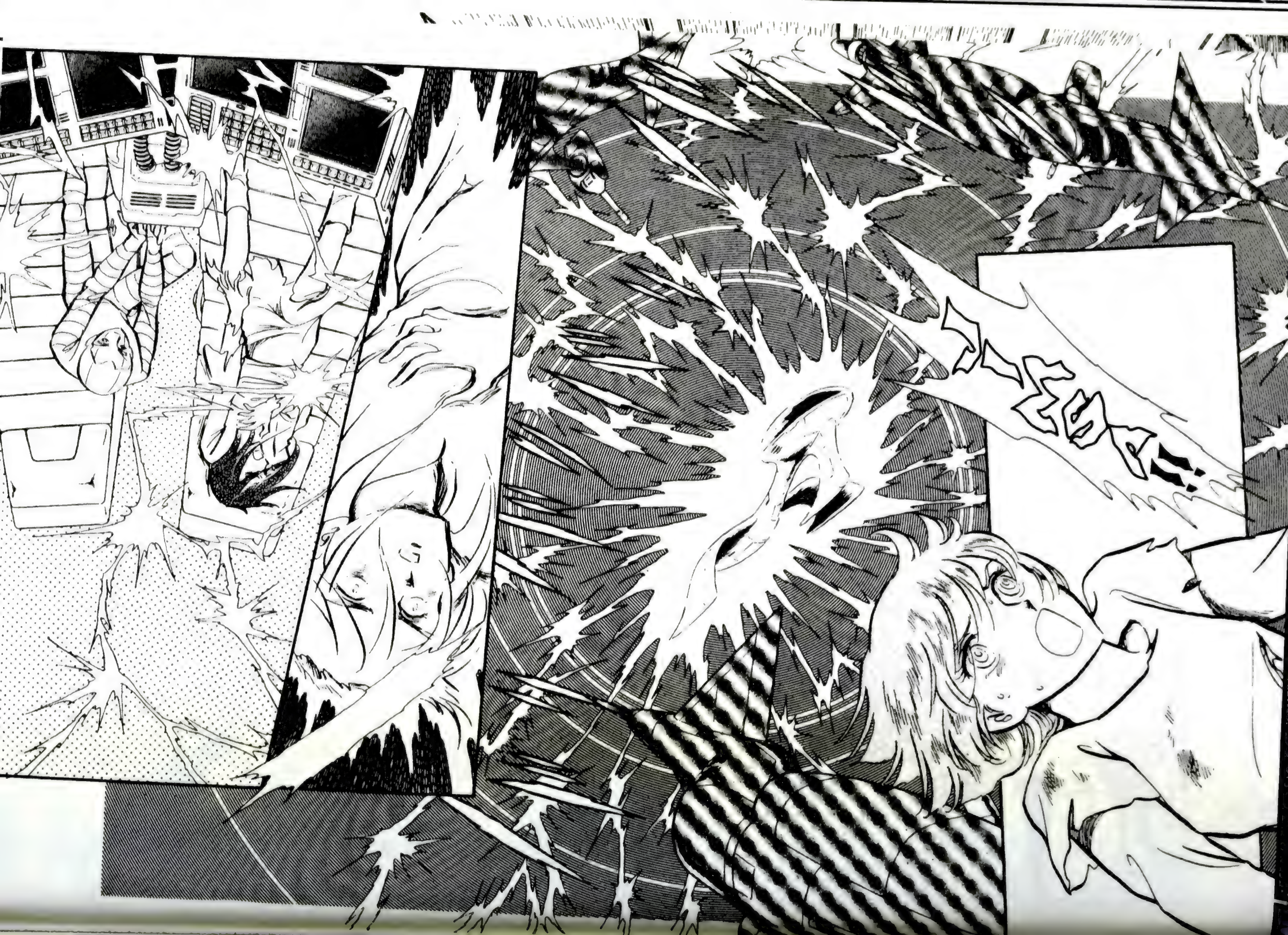
GET 'IM, AFFLE!!

ZAAA



OH!

THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO THAT SHIP'S POWER!

JIMSA!

PRINCE AFFLE, WE MUST ESCAPE NOW!

JIMSA, ANSWER ME!

MASTER HOW DO YOU FEEL?

IF IT FLEW AT FULL SPEED, HUMANS WOULDN'T SURVIVE.

THIS SHIP ISN'T DESIGNED FOR HUMANS.

IT'S ARAN-CHAN!

KOL!

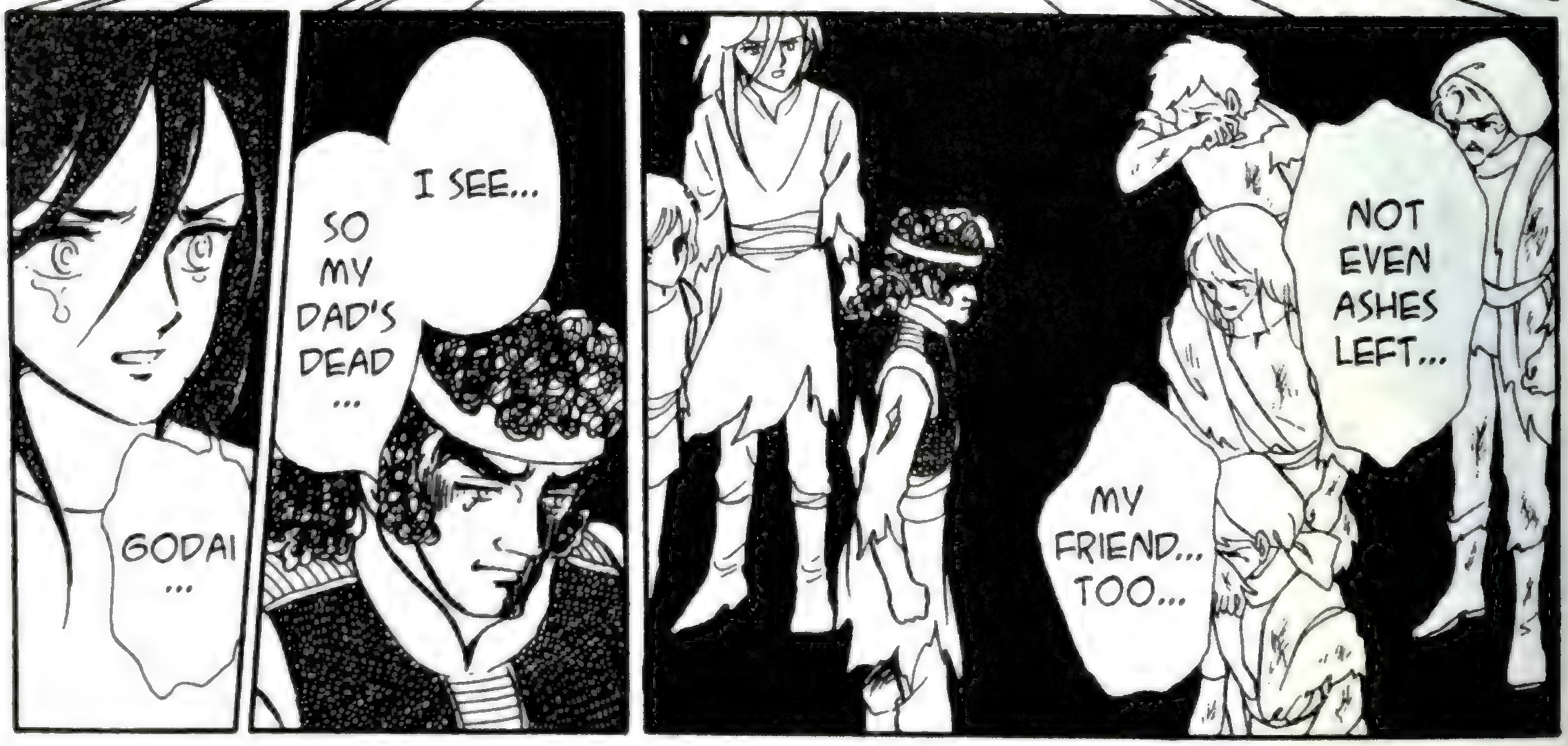
DEEPER...

HURRY!

IEA

NOW GET BACK AS FAR AS YOU CAN!

GOOD ENOUGH, GODAI.


I SEE...
SO MY DAD'S DEAD ...
GODAI ...
NOT EVEN ASHES LEFT...
MY FRIEND... TOO...

YOUR TEARS ARE THE HIGHEST HONOR MY FATHER COULD ASK FOR.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

YOU HAVE TO WATCH ARANCHAN, WHERE YOUR MOTHER LIVES, COME UNDER ATTACK.

DON'T CRY, PRINCE JIMSA ...

JUST A HANDFUL OF ASTRIAN SURVIVORS...

HOW THEY'VE DWINDLED...

AND LIVE THEY SHALL!

I WANT THEM TO LIVE ...

WE FIGHT TO LIVE!

EVEN IF WE MUST DIE...

WE'RE FIGHTING TO LIVE, JIMSA!

JIMSA ...

WAKE UP, PRINCE JIMSA.

IT'S YOUR MOTHER, JIMSA.

MM

MOTHER...

JIMSA ?!

I'M GLAD. YOU'RE NEAR, AREN'T YOU ?

MY DAUGH-TER, AFFLE!

AFFLE IS THERE TOO, ISN'T SHE?

H- HOW... WOULD YOU KNOW THAT, MOM?

YOU LEFT BEFORE YOU FOUND OUT!

DEAR AFFLE ...

WE LEARN OF THINGS QUICKLY IN ARAN-CHAN.

JIMSA... PLEASE LET ME HOLD AFFLE...

AFFLE ...

OH, AFFLE, MY DAUGH-TER...

YOU'RE... MY... BIRTH MOTHER ?

YES, AFFLE!

COME, LET ME HOLD YOU.

AFFLE!

AFFLE, NO...

WE AND MOM ARE NO LONGER ...

THE FOUR OF US CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.

JIMSA, YOU COME TO ARANCHAN TOO. THERE'S NO NEED TO FIGHT.

...

MOM, NO!

MOM ...

MOM

DON'T SAY SUCH SAD THINGS, JIMSA...

MY PRINCE, DON'T SADDEN ME FURTHER ...

JIMSA, NO!

SHE'LL TAKE YOU AWAY!

UH...

I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM! I WON'T LET YOU HAVE HIM!

NO, I WON'T LET YOU HAVE HIM!

JIMSA... NOT YOU, TOO!!

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH YOUR OWN BROTHER?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST SAID?

AFFLE... WHAT IN THE WORLD!

JIMSAI!

AFFLE
...

AFFLE

"SOB"

"SOB"

I LOVE YOU ...

TOO ...

...

THEY'RE CONSUMED BY INEXPLICABLE EMOTIONS! ABANDON THEM!

ABANDON JIMSA AND AFFLE.

WE HAVE FAILED TO RECOVER THEM.

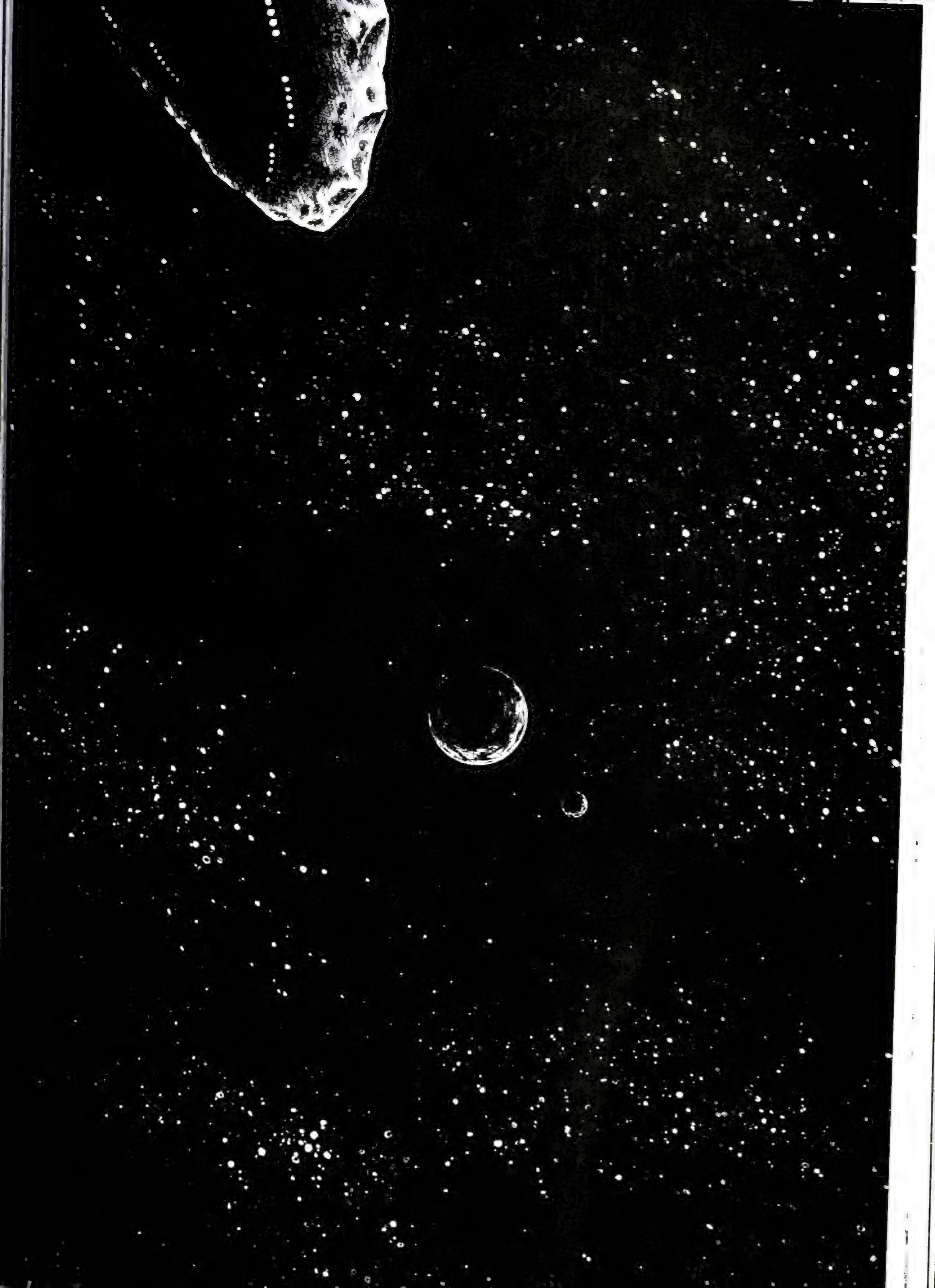
WHAT ?!

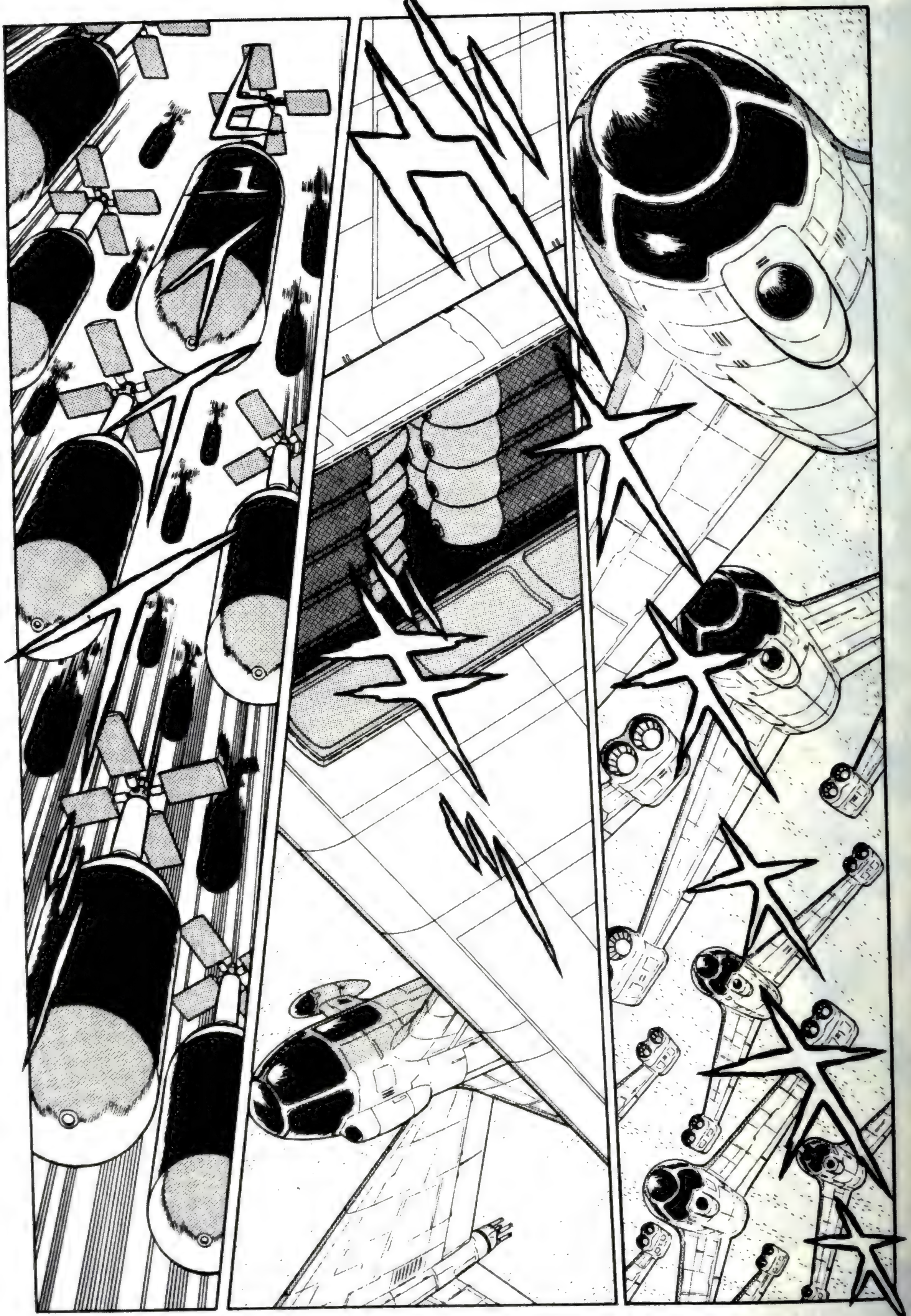
YOU'RE GOING TO RAM YOUR SHIP INTO THE PLANET ?

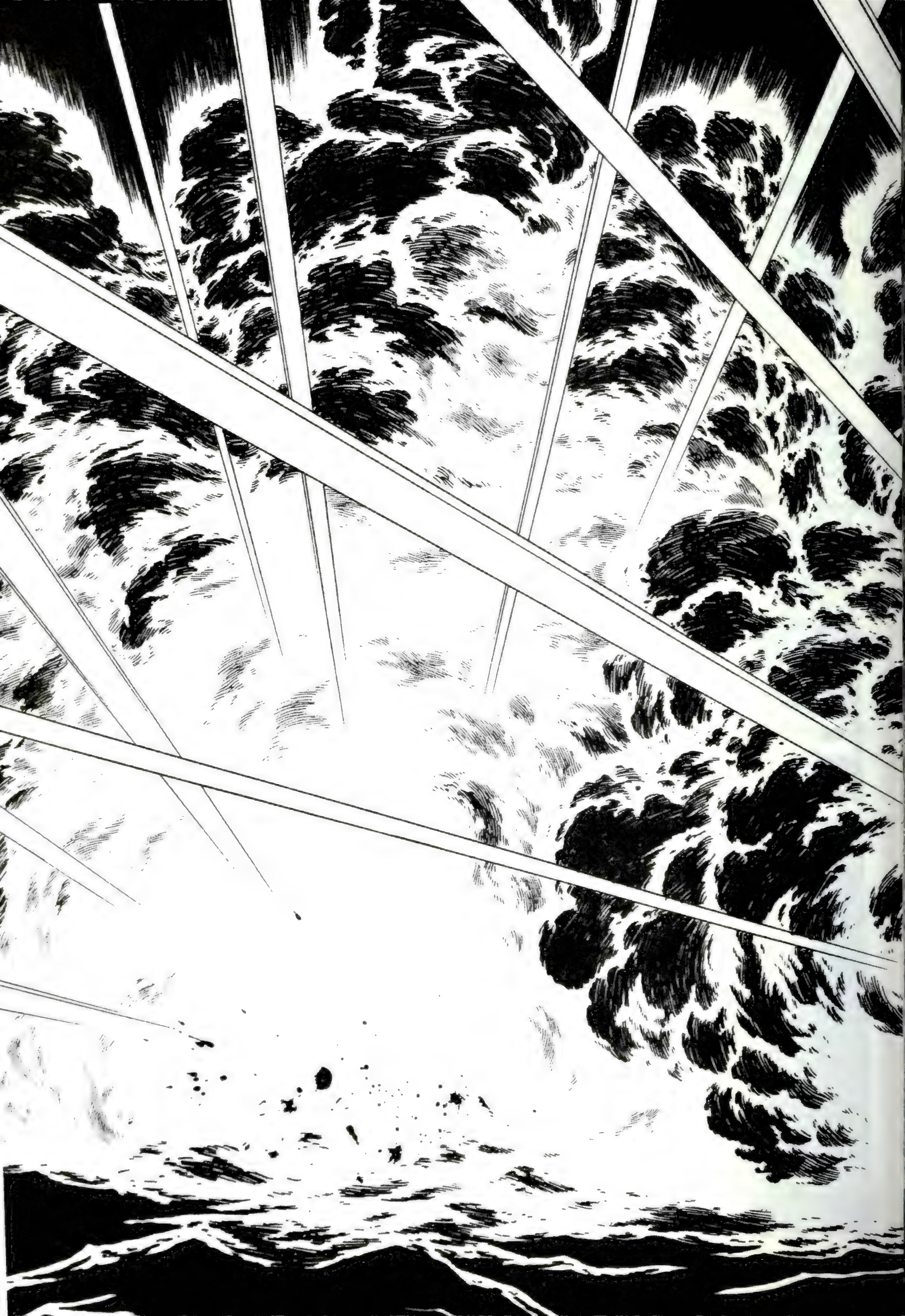
THE SHIP'S THE SIZE OF THE MOON !!

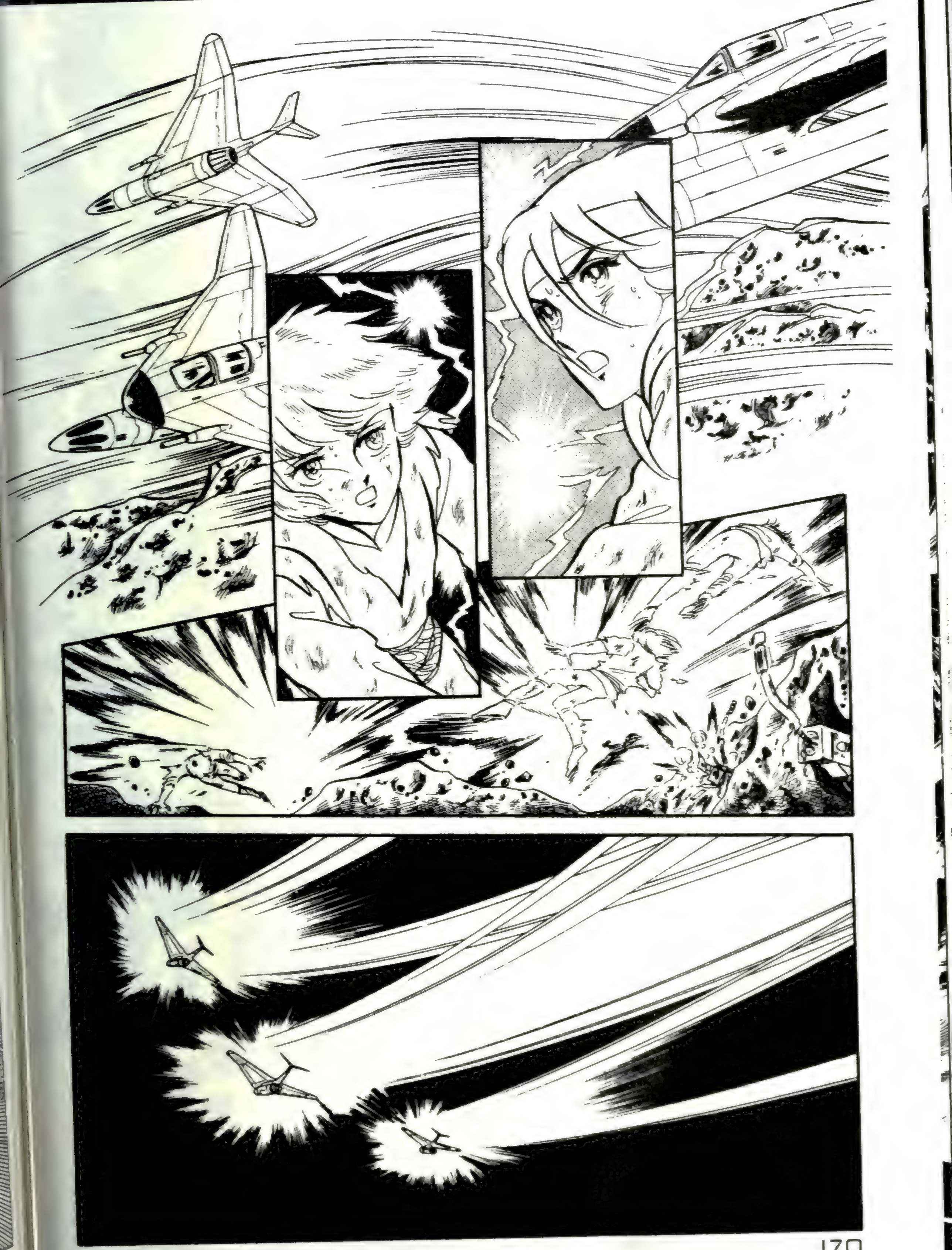
THAT'S RIGHT ...

BY THE TIME WE FINISH PLANTING OUR HOMING DEVICES TOMORROW NIGHT, THE SHIP WILL BE RIGHT NEXT TO THE PLANET.









HANG IN THERE!!
LOSE FOCUS FOR A SECOND AND ANOTHER ONE OF US DIES !
ㄱㅡㄱ
JIMSA !
AFFLE !

THEY'RE GONE ...

WHAT'S THAT ?

WHAT GOOD WAS IT?

OUR POWERS DIDN'T AMOUNT TO ANY-THING ...

OR...

THE ENEMY?

IT'S COMING LOWER.

YES...

THAT'S MY SHIP. I'VE FLOWN IT FOR MANY YEARS.

...IS THAT IT?

...BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO DESTROY THE *ENEMY*.

I'D STILL TAKE OVER LETTING THEM DIE.

AT BEST WE'LL END UP DRIFTING IN SPACE, OR LANDING ON A BARREN PLANET.

I'LL ASK AGAIN: CAN'T WE PUT EVERYONE ON THAT SHIP AND GO?

SURE, IF YOU CAN!

BUT WHAT IF IT SURVIVES?

YOU'LL HAVE LEFT A TERRIBLE MONSTER FOR THE UNIVERSE.

MY ONLY MISSION IS TO DESTROY THE UNRULY MACHINE I'VE CREATED.

ISN'T THAT WHY YOU'VE USED THEM TO FIGHT ALL THIS TIME?

THEY'RE OUR ONLY HOPE FOR RESISTING THE ENEMY!

DON'T PEOPLE MEAN ANY-THING TO YOU?

AS LONG AS WE DON'T LOSE OUR SOULS!

LIFE IS STILL WORTH LIVING!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PLANET? YOU TURNED HUMANS INTO CYBORGS TO FIGHT THE ENEMY.

...

EVEN WHEN A PLANET AS ADVANCED AS YOURS COULDN'T BEAT IT?

...!

WILL THEY DESTROY THE ENEMY AND NOT SUCCUMB TO IT?

WON'T A NEWLY RISEN RACE OF HUMANS REPEAT MY MISTAKE?

IF WE RUN NOW...

IT'S NOT RUNNING! IT'S CREATING NEW CHANCES! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY GENIUS!

BUT WE LOST. THE ENEMY USED INFO FROM ITS HUMAN AGENTS TO BUILD MACHINES THAT COULD BEAT US CYBORGS.

RODLIAN WAS DIFFERENT. WE CHOSE TO FIGHT!

AS LONG AS HUMANS ARE WEAK AND GIVE IN TO THE MACHINES' PARADISE.

THERE'S NO HUMAN CIVILIZATION THAT THE ENEMY CAN'T CONTROL,

THERE ARE PLANETS LIKE ARC'S, WHOSE POWER TOTALLY SURPASSES THE ENEMY'S.

EACH PERSON IS UNIQUE. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

BUT CYBORGS CAN'T RE-PRODUCE.

THE ONES SENT TO FIND PLANETS TO WHICH HUMANS COULD ESCAPE.

SO ONLY ADVANCE GUARDS LIKE YOU REMAIN,.

ELDER!

HUMANS CAN BE COLD-BLOODED TOO, YOU KNOW.

I'M DONE RE-PEATING THE CYCLE ...

SO WE LET THEM FALL PREY TO THE ENEMY AGAIN?

THAT'S WHY WE NEED PEOPLE! EVEN A PERSON WITH NO RANK OR POWER CAN BE THE SEED OF THE NEW RACE!

PRINCE JIMSA ... DID YOU HEAR THAT ?

YES ...

THOUGH IT WAS QUITE BEYOND ME.

THEN ESCAPE THIS PLANET !

TAKE EVERY-ONE YOU CAN!

TAKE ARC'S SHIP TO ARC'S PLANET OR ANYWHERE YOU CAN!

THAT SHIP ISN'T MEANT FOR HUMANS.

WHAT?

IF IT FLIES AT ITS NORMAL SPEED, WE'LL DIE.

THEY'RE BACK !

TAKE COVER !

FIRE !

WE'LL GET THOSE BAS- TARDS !

THIS ONE'S FOR POPS!

DAMN!

THEY DON'T STOP.

JIMSA ... WHERE'S JIMSA ?!

I CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALONE.

SEE HERE !

THIS IS NO TIME TO DIE !

IT'S DAN-GEROUS TO GO OUT ...

COME, JIMSA !

WE'LL ALL DIE HERE!

I'LL GO GET AFFLE!

CALL ARC AND BETH AND GET ON THEIR SHIP !

LISTEN, YOU AND AFFLE ARE MY ONLY HOPE.

A SHIP THE SIZE OF THE MOON, PACKED WITH MISSILES...

THAT'S MY FINAL WEA-PON:

LOOK AT THE SKY.

WE'LL WAIT. WE'LL SHOW THE ENEMY.

SAME WITH THE OTHER BASE.

ONLY 5 OR 6 OF US ARE LEFT WHO CAN FIGHT.

WHAT DO WE DO ?

ELDER !

I'VE CALLED IT.

IT WILL COME TO ARANCHAN USING

THE HOMING DEVICES YOU PLACED ...

AND THE WAR WILL END.

IT WILL BE BEAU-TIFUL.

TREES WILL GROW AND BIRDS WILL SING.

PEACE WILL RETURN TO THIS PLANET ...

EVERY-THING... WILL END.

AFFLE!

AFFLE, COME!

JIMSA'S OVER THERE. QUICK!

STAY IN!

IL!

PRINCE...

JIMSA...

BALGAAA

BALGA!

I GUESS ... IT MADE NO DIFFER-ENCE GOING OUT OR NOT.

I PLEDGE MY ETERNAL ...

LOY-ALTY... TO YOU...

ANNIHI-
LATION
ALL
AROUND.

HURRY.
HOW
DO
YOU
FEEL?

IL!

IL,
AREN'T
YOU
COM-
ING
?

NO
MATTER
HOW
SLIM
THE
CHANCES
!

GO!

TO A WORLD
WHERE
CYBORG
WARRIORS
AREN'T
NEEDED...

BEFORE THAT THING GETS HERE.

AND I GO TOO,

MY BATTLE ON THIS PLANET

SHALL BE MY FINAL DUTY !

I SHALL PROCEED TO THE NEXT PLANET.

PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET, MAY YOU FOREVER BE AT PEACE.

ATTACK IS DONE. REBELS TERMINATED.

OUR MISSION HERE IS COMPLETE.

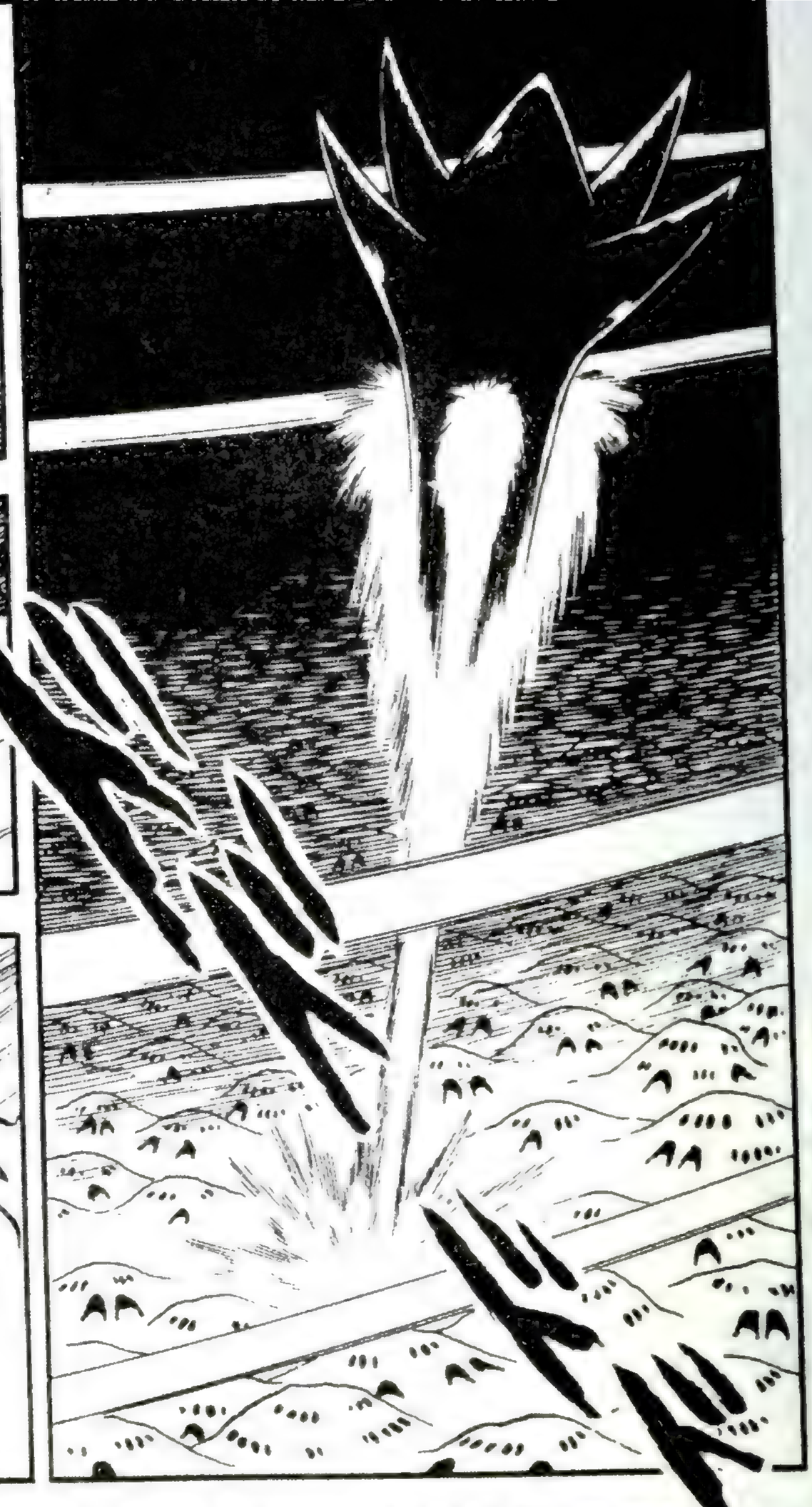
COMPLETE.

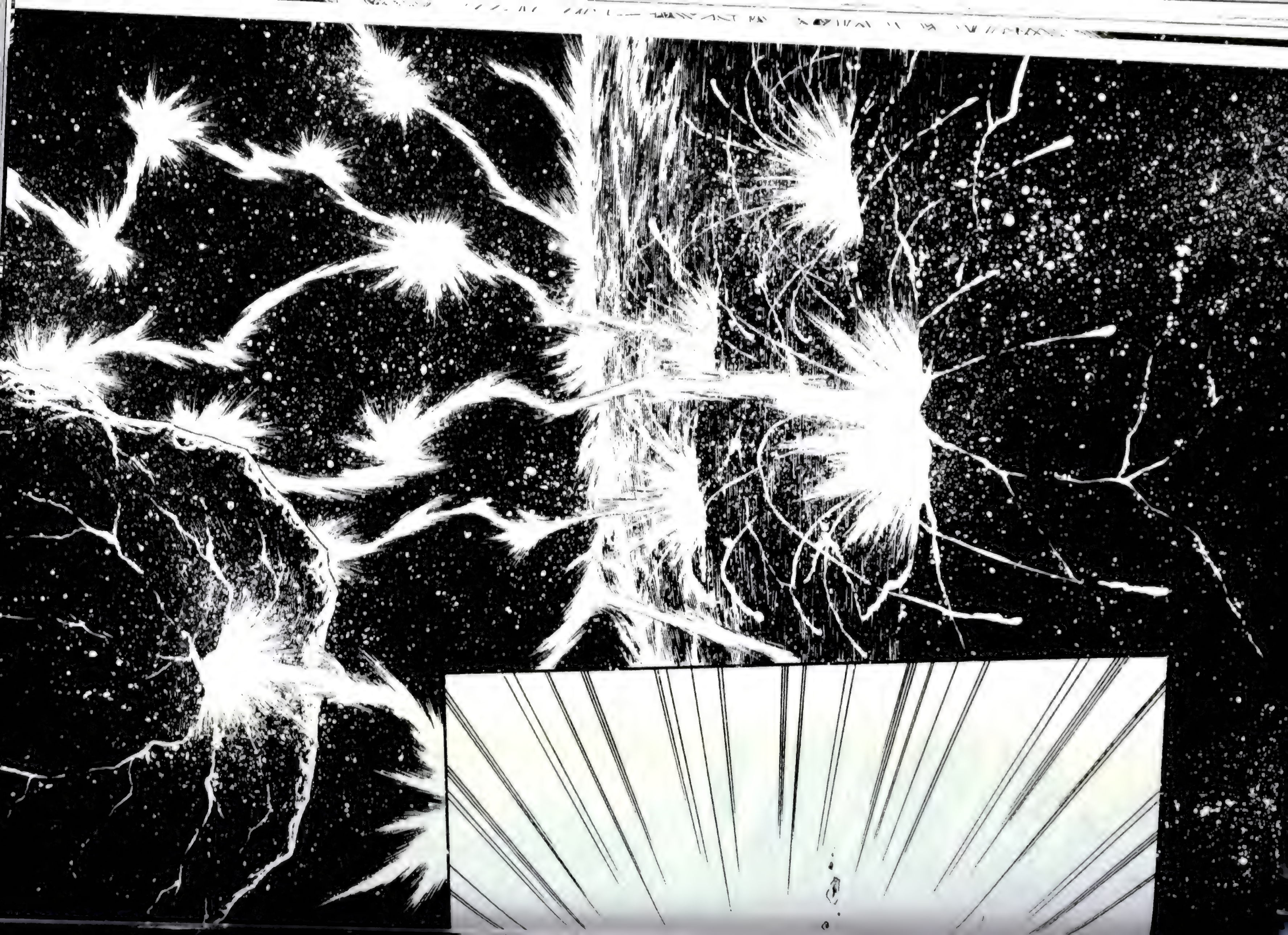
SLEEP IN MY CRADLE, FOREVER ENVELOPED IN SUPREME BLISS.

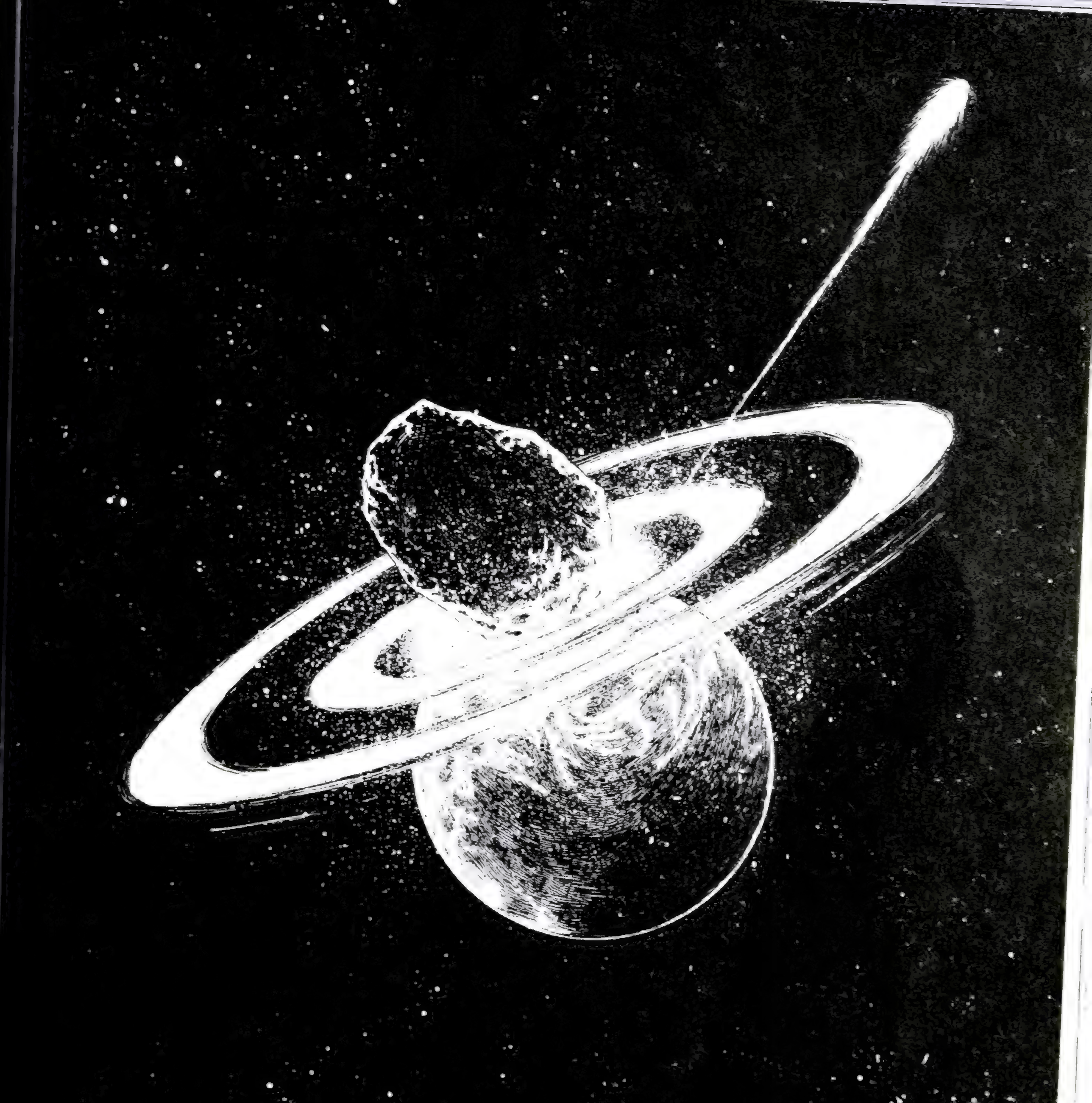
IT COMES ...
HERE

MY SHIP ...

COME TO ME !!







...MOM...

I NEVER DREAMED OF FLYING OUT INTO SPACE...

ARC, WHAT WAS YOUR PLANET LIKE?

IT HAD THE MOST ADVANCED CIVILIZATION IN THE SOL SYSTEM.

BUT IT'S VERY FAR FROM HERE.

WHERE TO, MASTER?

I DON'T KNOW...

WHERE MIGHT THERE BE A HABITABLE PLANET FOR US?

IT'S BEEN NEARLY 20,000 YEARS SINCE WE WERE SENT TO EXPLORE THE PLANETS IN THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY.

AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT CIVILI-ZATION.

AND NO CHANCE HABITABLE PLANET DEVELOPED IN LAST 20,000 YEARS.

20,000 YEARS AGO, NONE IN THIS OR NEARBY GALAXIES

AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.

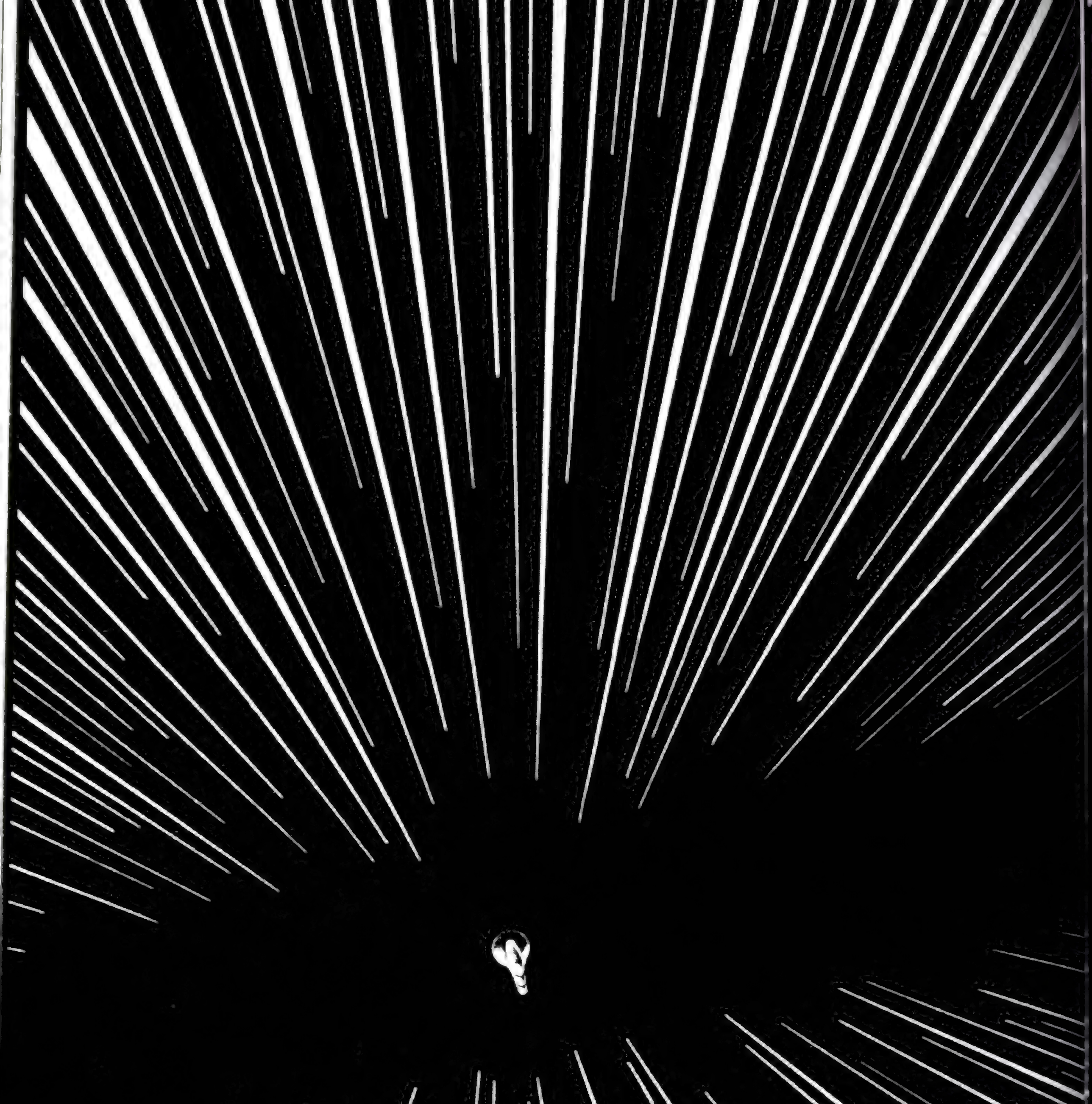
OF ANY-THING ...

I'M NOT AFRAID

STANDBY TO WARP.

ROGER. WE'LL DO OUR BEST.

THEN LET'S GO TO YOUR HOME-LAND... WHILE WE'RE STILL ALIVE, IF POSSIBLE.



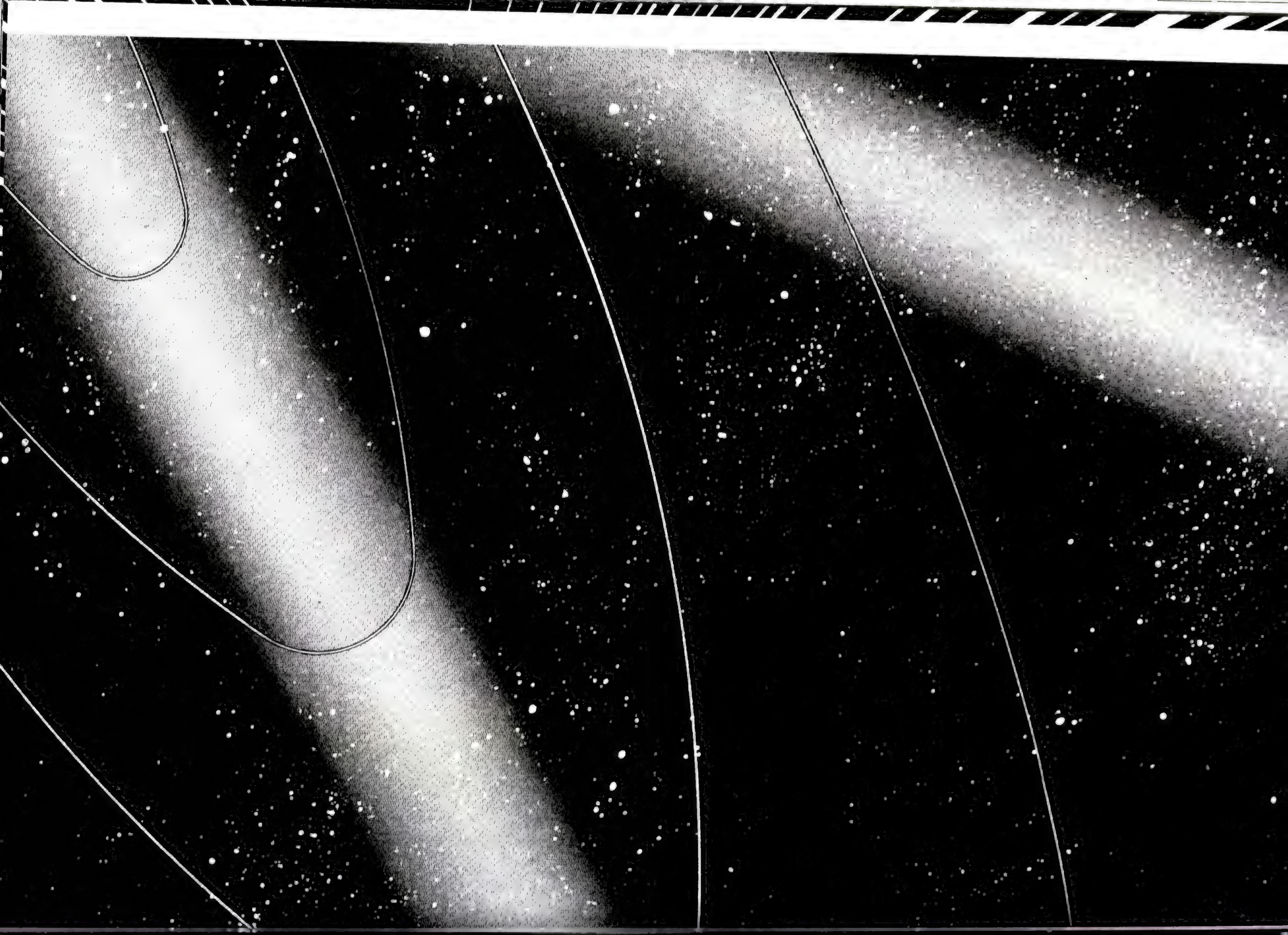
STARS ARE FLYING BY.

I SEE THEM, JIMSA.

WE'RE GOING TO BE...

THE SEEDS OF THE UNI-VERSE.

THE SEEDS ...



2000 YEARS SINCE DEPARTING ASTRIAS.

ENTERING SOL SYSTEM.

APPROACHING FIFTH PLANET, GROVE.

NO RESPONSE TO OUR TRANSMISSION TO GROVE. NO RESPONSE.

GROVE NO LONGER EXISTS... IT'S BEEN REDUCED TO AN ASTEROID BELT ORBITING THE SUN.

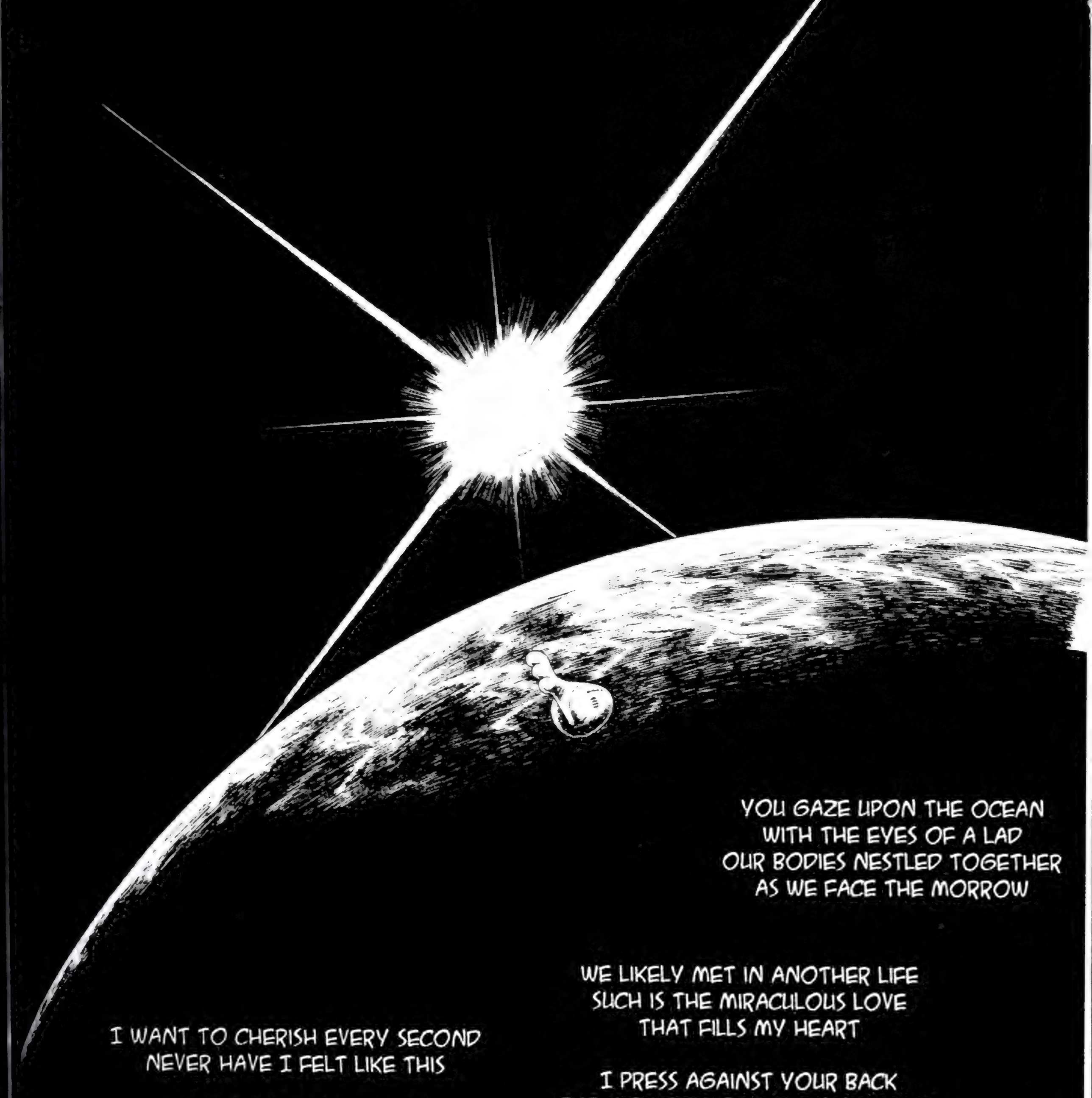
SETTING COURSE FOR THE THIRD PLANET.

WAKE UP...

WE REACH DESTINATION. 2000 YEARS HAVE PASSED.

MASTER, WAKE UP. MASTER.

...



YOU GAZE UPON THE OCEAN
WITH THE EYES OF A LAD
OUR BODIES NESTLED TOGETHER
AS WE FACE THE MORROW

WE LIKELY MET IN ANOTHER LIFE
SUCH IS THE MIRACULOUS LOVE
THAT FILLS MY HEART

I PRESS AGAINST YOUR BACK
THE HIGH TIDE OF A BURNING HEART

I WANT TO CHERISH EVERY SECOND
NEVER HAVE I FELT LIKE THIS

OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER
SEEMED SO INSIGNIFICANT

AND YET, IN THIS WIDE UNIVERSE,
A NEW LOVE IS BORN
A NEW HAPPINESS IS BORN...

LIKE LOVE RAINING UPON THE OCEAN

I WANT TO CHERISH EVERY SECOND

UNTIL THE DAY I DIE

OUR LIVES SEEM SO INSIGNIFICANT

YET WE WILL PASS DOWN TO ETERNITY

AND THIS LOVE

THESE LIVES WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ...

THE ANDROMEDA OF
2.2 MILLION
LIGHT YEARS AGO
FLOATS IN
THE NIGHT SKY

THE TIDES OF FATE
WHIRL WITHIN ITS VORTEX

ITS STARS

YET LIVE

THEIR SECOND OF ETERNITY...

THE END

"WE WILL PASS DOWN TO ETERNITY THESE LIVES WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN..."

In the final volume of the series, Prince Jimsa and his twin Affle are reunited and join forces in the battle against the *Enemy*, the seemingly unstoppable machine race whose mysterious origins slowly become clear. As the *Enemy* progressively colonizes up to 90% of Planet Astrias, the Elder decides that only the most drastic measures will be able to stop it in its path—even if it means the possible destruction of humanity in the bargain.

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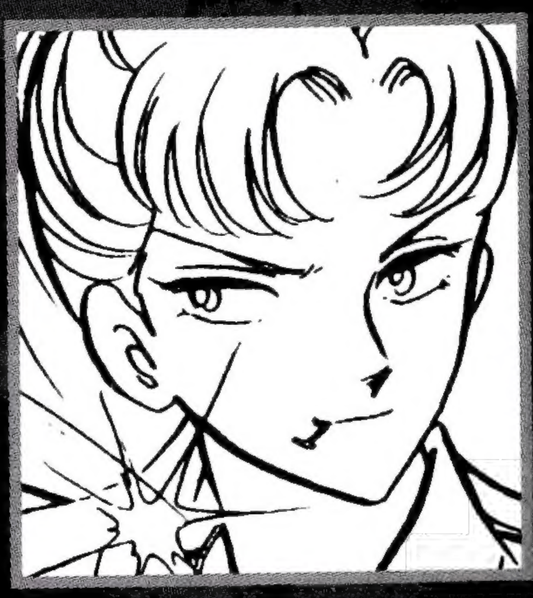

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